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# Library Journal

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**Library Economy and Bibliography**

SEPTEMBER, 1908

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## The Library Journal

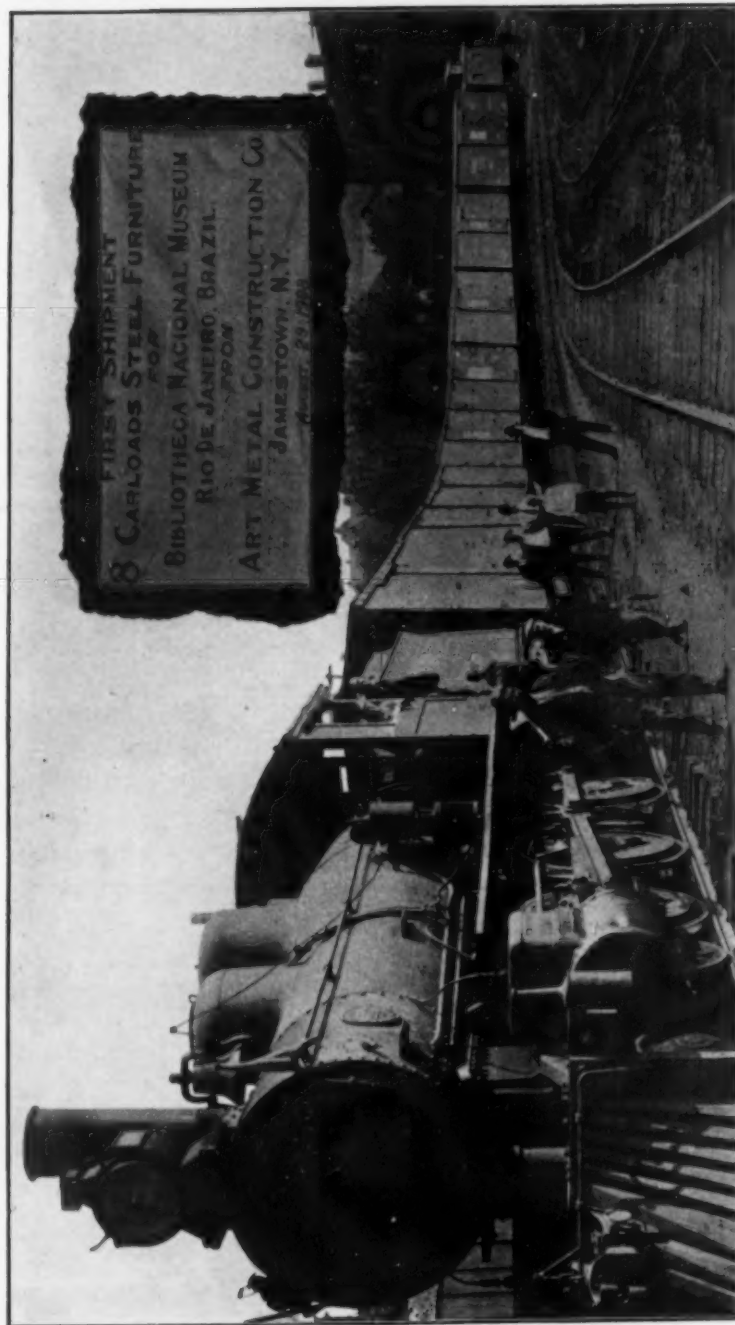
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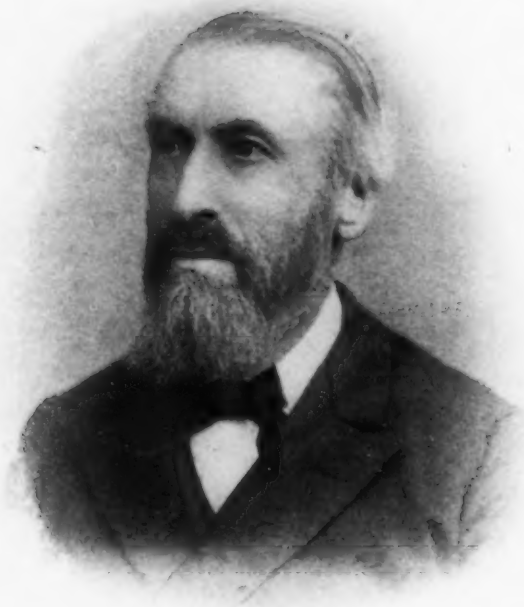
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# THE LIBRARY JOURNAL

VOL. 33

SEPTEMBER, 1908

No. 9

It was gratifying that at Minnetonka the vote of the Council in favor of Chicago as A. L. A. headquarters was so nearly unanimous, and that following the decision of the Executive Board in accordance with the recommendation of the Council, the choice of Chicago should be received so well by those who had preferred other places. Unfortunately the legal complications connected with the choice of a site for the new building assured to the John Crerar Library, by its munificent foundation, had postponed the beginning of the building in which ample provision was promised for the headquarters, so that the Association could not find its permanent home for some years to come. In view of the vote in general meeting—81 to 41—which though it fell short of the statutory three-quarters vote, indicated the feeling of the Association—that it was not desirable to accept the hospitality of commercial houses interested in library business, the Executive Board was placed in some embarrassment in providing for temporary headquarters in Chicago, and the immediate result has been an extension of the Boston lease for one year from Sept. 1, 1908. It is unfortunate that the removal which has been determined upon could not be effected more promptly, but the Executive Board has doubtless made the best temporary solution of the difficulty the limitations and complications of the situation involved.

THE library schools open again with the general opening of the educational season and new swarms of future librarians seek their fostering shelter. The library school has become in fact one of the most notable of the special educational developments of the day. It is altogether desirable that the needs of the public should be supplied by those who have had a special training for the purpose, and the demand for library assistants far outreaches the capacity of the schools to supply the demand. There is of course a hard side to this, that the young woman who

desires to earn her living by helping in a library, has less chance in these days without special education, but this also connotes progress, and, however unfortunate to the individual, is a sign of advance. It is important that the library schools shall be kept up to the highest standard, and this can be done only by an intelligent discretion on the part of librarians in selecting their assistants at the end of the school term from schools which exemplify the highest standards.

If libraries are to be, as they should be, an important factor in the progress of the American people, no question before them is more urgent than what to do about the unfortunate deluge of bad books now issuing from the English and American press, especially in the shape of fiction. It is possible only to discuss the matter on general lines, as the mention of specific books only serves to advertise them more widely to the salacious mind. It must be confessed that it is difficult, and more than difficult, to "draw the line." One of the most objectionable books ever issued flaunted on its title-page the fact that its entire contents were taken from books in circulation at the Chicago Public Library; and it is impossible to exclude English and other classics which have objectionable paragraphs or features. But this does not relieve librarians of responsibility; it only makes their responsibility the more keen. Nor is the question one as to juvenile reading only. These books are scarcely less poisonous to those who have passed the legal age than to minors, for poison is poison under any circumstances. In general, librarians fully recognize this responsibility, as is evident from the symposium which is a feature of this number, and for which we shall be glad to have further contributions in the next issue.

THE natural solution of the bad book problem is not to purchase such books. If

it is said that it is not the business of a public librarian to select, but only to give the public what it wants, there are two answers. First, it is his business to see that mental poison is not distributed through the library, as it is the business of the purveyor of food to make sure that he does not sell putrid meat or poisonous mushrooms. Second, he *must* always select, for no library except great repositories such as the national libraries, can undertake to collect everything. And if he is to select, certainly the good of the public should be one of the guiding lines in such selection. The great number of libraries have in fact very limited funds, and cannot buy as many good books of permanent value — as they would like, so that the bad book and the ephemeral book should not find place on their order lists. Of course this involves the truism that the librarian should be guided by broad principles, and not let individual prejudices or idiosyncrasies be the determining element. We are contending against the class of books, only too large at this present writing, which must be defined as bad books, if any definition at all is to be made.

If a library for any reason includes such books on its shelves, and especially in the open shelf system, it is most unwise to attract the prurient mind by some mark which advertises their quality. The "minor label" scarcely effects the purpose, for many of these books, as we have indicated, are as undesirable for adult as for juvenile readers. It is rather the "restricted label" which should be used, and this should not be so distinctive in character or color as to advertise the book which it is intended to restrict. A slight variation "off color" will perhaps best indicate the objectionable quality of the book. On the whole it is perhaps best to segregate such books, as is done in some libraries, by keeping them in a special collection in the librarian's room or under lock and key; for although the existence of such a collection, when it becomes known, as is almost sure to be the case, is in itself a temptation to the salacious mind, there are few readers who will have the effrontery to ask for the forbidden fruit unless for reasons other than curiosity. The problem is certainly a

difficult one, and the one thing to be avoided is to advertise particular books by calling attention unnecessarily to their obnoxious qualities.

WHETHER any co-operative scheme of criticism or exclusion can be worked out is problematical, but it is well that the public sentiment of the librarians should be brought to bear upon publishers in this field. There has been so decided a trend toward the so-called problem novel that many publishers, even among the best, have become more careless than they used to be, and good imprints are not always evidence of the decency of a book. Publishers should understand that an objectionable book with their imprint opens other books on their list to suspicion, and that the best advertisement which a publishing house can have is the reasonable certainty that its publications are of moral as well as literary quality. Of course there are publishers, especially minor ones, who truckle to the unfortunate demand for bad books and are willing to rival each other in this direction. It is easy to avoid their books, and these should be banished definitely from the shelves. The public opinion of librarians and through them public opinion at large should not be without influence in fortifying publishers who desire to withstand the present evil tendency.

THERE is another important question of selection which we have always with us, the problem whether a library should be turned into a "tramp's home" by a newspaper room, which invites the casual passer-by or the homeless unfortunate to spend his morning, afternoon or evening, perhaps all, in a comfortable room, reading the penny paper at the expense of the public. It is well to provide homes for the homeless, but the library is scarcely the proper place for the solution of the tramp problem. In fact, in inviting the tramp it repels the serious reader, and the newspaper room is oftentimes a serious difficulty in the use of a library by women. Probably one of the best solutions is the practice of handling daily papers rather on the reference principle than for general circulation. This is a question which may well receive general discussion from the profession.

## WHAT SHALL LIBRARIES DO ABOUT BAD BOOKS

CONTRIBUTED FROM VARIOUS LIBRARIES

THE subject of book selection is recognized as one of first importance in library administration, and the principles guiding selection become more complicated and difficult of determination in the present day of promiscuous publication, when so large a proportion of literature of immoral or unwholesome character is widely sold and advertised and in demand by the public. The following brief statements contributed from eight libraries are intended to show the librarian's standpoint with regard to his responsibility in and method of handling books of this character. Contributors were asked to give rules for exclusion of such books, the treatment accorded them in their libraries and suggestions in respect to their treatment outside of libraries, as by book-stores or in the press, considering especially the protection of the public. As it has seemed undesirable to give emphasis to specific books the subject is discussed along general lines and further contributions are expected for a coming number.

## NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY

We have no hard and fast rules in the Circulation Department of the New York Public Library that enable us to tell at a glance, or at a reading, what books should be barred from use on account of immoral tendency or of indecency. Each case is treated on its own merits, and it is unnecessary to say that we do not purchase any books that appear to us to be either immoral or so indecent that they are unfit to be circulated among the general public. There are, of course, certain literary masterpieces that can not well be altogether excluded, even though they might be condemned for one or the other of these reasons; these we watch and endeavor to see that they do not fall into the hands of those who might read them for unworthy reasons. But we keep no *index expurgatorius* and try to do nothing that would formally mark such books as "forbidden" and thus stimulate a desire to read them.

In regard to the treatment of books that are "over the line," outside of libraries, it

seems to me that all those interested in the dissemination of literature (including, besides librarians, authors, publishers, booksellers, and possibly others) should stand together in this matter. All these classes of people are earning their daily bread by what they do toward making and distributing books; but it is to be hoped that the commercial motive is not the sole spring of action in the case of any of them. The librarian has this distinct advantage over the others, that it is not directly to his pecuniary interests to circulate bad books. To be sure, in some cases the maximum library appropriation allowed by law is made to depend on the size of the circulation, and some library critics assert that this has induced librarians to "pad" their circulation in various ways. I do not believe that this is true; and even if it is, I do not believe that the introduction of bad books has ever been one of the means employed. It might be otherwise if our personal salaries were made to depend on the size of the circulation in the same way that the salaries of some postmasters depend on the sale of postage stamps. But as it is, the librarian, being removed from direct pecuniary interest in the dissemination of doubtful literature, is in a much better position to judge impartially of the fitness of a book for circulation than either the author, the bookseller or the publisher, into whose pockets the issue of such a book might, and probably would, put money directly.

Why should this fact not be generally recognized? Books are written and published every year that have no possible chance of securing a place on the shelves of any respectable library. I do not speak now of books about which there might be differences of opinion, but of those books that every one knows will never reach a library public. Such a book, it seems to me, no author should write, no publisher should issue, no bookseller should offer for sale, and no journal should advertise. Librarians are leading the way here, as in some other matters. Let the other disseminators of literature notice, take heed, and follow. ARTHUR E. BOSTWICK.



## NEW BEDFORD, MASS., PUBLIC LIBRARY

That books which are questionable in morals or suggestive and indecent in tone should be excluded from public libraries must be assumed. That library officials are careful in excluding books which they deem at all harmful to the morals of the community is also beyond question.

With most libraries I should say that the tendency was rather to err on the side of over-restriction, than by a laxity in admitting such books.

The practical question that confronts those who select the books is, how shall one give most expeditiously and accurately the information which shall guide in the selection or rejection?

The most apparent means are the following. The previous reputation of the author, as shown in the books he has already written; the fiction lists of his publisher; the comments of literary reviews; the actual reading of the book by semi-official readers employed by the library; and finally, the personal judgment of the librarian.

There are practical difficulties in the way of all of these methods. An author who has previously kept to the straight and narrow path of decency will sometimes leap over the fence and wallow in the trough of iniquity. A publisher whose publications have hitherto been without reproach, and entirely safe—*virginibus puerisque*—may cater to the temptation of large sales and quick profits. The most sane and reliable book reviews we all know occasionally go astray, perhaps misled by the literary charm which sometimes carries with it moral obliquity. The semi-professional book readers are slow in operation, and often vary widely in their judgment, while the librarian usually is so fully occupied that it is impossible to give the time to read all the current fiction that his clients demand.

It is not easy to detect the particular faults which usually debar fiction from our shelves without somewhat careful study. It is much easier for the trained librarian to detect bad literature than bad morals. Usually the objectionable parts are confined to a few pages and are not always to be found without actual reading of a book. It is a fact beyond question that many books

which are kept from libraries on account of their objectionable style and lack of literary finish are unexceptionable in point of morals, while books which are written with a good deal of literary finish frequently need the most careful scrutiny before they can be allowed entrance to the unrestricted circulation of a library.

If library officials could feel that the same oversight were used by parents in guarding their children against improper reading that the libraries use in making attractive and pushing the circulation of really choice and proper books, the question would be more than half solved. But it is perhaps too much to expect that parents should exercise that duty! There is a feeling among parents of the American youth that their morals should be largely left to the guidance of the teachers while in school, and the choice of books left to the library officials, who with the teachers are unofficially constituted *custodes morum*. But emphatically I believe that the salvation of the child depends on the parent rather than on the state.

What shall we as library men and women do about it? I think we shall have to depend largely, as we have before, on the list of sources that I have mentioned as helping us in our choice, using all the while constant vigilance lest unworthy books creep in. Above all else we must keep cool, not be over-disturbed by doubts, and constantly push and in every way exploit the best, as has been so constantly the aim of the American libraries for the last ten or fifteen years; if possible persuade the great literary journals to use more care in their criticisms of novels, and finally, I believe that a very important work could be done by supplementing the work which has been so well carried out by the A. L. A. Committee on bookbuying, in some such way as follows:

My reason for suggesting this is the fact that while we heartily appreciate the reports of this committee, the fiction lists are restricted and the lists are not in our hands until some time after the books have been read and talked about by the public. My proposition is that the leading publishers of fiction, probably not over twenty, could be induced to furnish advance sheets of forthcoming novels to be inspected with an eye to

their suitability for library purchase by certain selected representatives of the libraries, which would be willing to enter upon such a work, such readers at once to formulate their results and send their verdict to as many libraries as would be glad to avail themselves of this advance information.

Practically it should work as follows: A certain library would have the responsibility to pass judgment upon the publications of a certain book-house, or the books written by authors that cover certain letters in the alphabet. In that way one publisher could be divided up among as many libraries as was deemed advisable. Each reader could report to some one librarian who would be willing to look after the printing and notify other libraries who were in the coalition. I feel very certain that in this way information which would be reliable could be circulated, and while, of course, not binding in any way, yet would offer valuable advice to the libraries which should employ this means. The publishers ought not to object and should be willing to facilitate the work if they have worthy wares to sell, and I thoroughly believe that without too much work on any one, by joint action of this kind, most serviceable help could be rendered to all.

GEORGE H. TRIPP.

#### NEWARK FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

A few books which are nasty according to present-day notions are placed on restricted shelves and are issued to adults only; they are given unhesitatingly to such adults as ask for them.

There are on our open shelves many books that most people would not consider wholesome reading for young people. Usually they are such as would not interest young people. By having special collections of good and attractive books, by furnishing freely many lists of these, and by personal effort on the part of assistants at the loan desk and throughout the department, we try to bring it about that boys and girls shall read only such books as are good for them.

We do not consider that there is anything on our open shelves which it would hurt the average person to read. We have to deal in averages.

Our practice, here briefly outlined, in regard to novels and other books which some

think might injure the young, and some others, seems to work well. In libraries there is sometimes a feeling on the part of assistants that they are constantly warding off young people from books that would be bad for them, and there is discernible a determined effort on the part of certain boys and girls to get such books. These conditions seem to arise from too much restraint. I have never seen anything of the sort in our lending department.

SARA CLEVELAND VAN DE CARR.

#### ATLANTA, CARNEGIE LIBRARY

It was recently brought to my attention that a certain set of books not suitable for unrestricted circulation was being largely read by high-school boys and girls. These books were passed from one to another, the whole set being constantly in circulation. These works of fiction, written by one of the continental authors, were classified as literature, with the idea that this would restrict their use. After discovering their unprecedented popularity the books were removed from the shelves, and will finally be discarded.

This brings me to say what I really feel about books of this class—that the public library is not the place for them. There are comparatively few readers who take these books from the library for study, and those who wish them for such a purpose can purchase them.

In the case of the continental authors, one can select from their works certain titles suitable for public libraries, and these books may be given a minor label. Little apprehension need be felt about books in the original. The fact that they are in the original limits their popularity; it is the translation that will be widely read. The same plan of selection followed for continental authors may be adopted for English or American writers.

Beyond this it seems to me that it is not the province of the public library to furnish to its borrowers books which are of such questionable propriety that they must be restricted and safeguarded from the larger part of the library patronage. This is particularly true when one realizes that the money spent for these books might be used in buying books of more permanent value for scholars and students.

This same rule of the selection of titles

would apply to the new books, although the process of exclusion is more difficult on account of the great number that appear each day, and also on account of the popular demand for them simply because they are new. Just now practically all new books must be carefully looked over before being put in circulation. In this library a special effort is made not to bring to public notice the fact that any book much in demand has been excluded.

I should not favor buying even one copy of any recent book of fiction that had to be restricted. One must bear in mind, however, the difference between the minor label and the restricted label.

The fact that this library makes no restrictions as to the use of its shelves makes greater caution necessary.

JULIA T. RANKIN.

#### CLEVELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

The practice of the Cleveland Public Library in the treatment of books immoral, indecent or unwholesome character or tendencies is briefly as follows:

Fiction and any other questionable literature is ordered on approval, read and reported on by one or more persons on the volunteer reading committee or on the library staff; reviews of the book are also looked up and compared. If the moral tone of the book is low, it is excluded from the library, unless it has some distinct merits, literary or other, which warrant keeping one copy as a restricted-book at the main library. Restricted books are under the direct supervision of the head of the department, to whom application for such books must be made; they are loaned to the branches only by request through the branch librarian, and their use is confined to readers of mature judgment. The greatest safeguard against interest in bad literature is of course a cultivation of the good, hence we aim to supply the best clean fiction unstintingly, duplicating it very largely.

There is much debatable ground in present-day problem novels, and it is this which is most difficult to deal with. In the library which gives free access, the guarding of the morals of the young becomes an active responsibility, probably best met by keeping books of questionable moral tone off the open shelves and by friendly oversight of the se-

lection of books by the young people. Our library is trying to work out a plan by which the friendly personal relations, and reliance on the assistants for suggestions in reading established so successfully in the children's room, will be continued with the transfer of the young person to the adult department, and maintained throughout the years of development until his need of judicious oversight is past. The plan is one calling for most intelligent and interested co-operation of the library staff, and probably the specializing of certain assistants in work with young people beyond the limits of the children's room; it is one which offers problems from the outset, but there seems to be little doubt of its importance.

There appears to be, on the part of the better book dealers, a growing tendency to co-operate in the effort to suppress harmful literature, which offers encouraging possibilities for the future. That such literature is still advertised and sold to an alarming extent we have only too abundant proof. Would any union of forces be possible among publishers, dealers and librarians to combat the evil?

WILLIAM HOWARD BRETT.

#### TRAVELLING LIBRARY DEPARTMENT, WISCONSIN LIBRARY COMMISSION

This is the day of "exotic," "erotic," and "tommy-rotic" literature and the problem of selection is becoming increasingly difficult. Out of forty recent titles of fiction, taken at random from publishers' lists, there were just two of a happy, wholesome nature that came up to the standard for travelling libraries. We realize that the standard of such libraries sent to rural communities is much higher than for the average city library, as country dwellers, praise be, will not "stand for" the sort of thing read by many city borrowers. It is true that in these days of rural free delivery, farmers notice advertisements of the pestilential stuff in daily and weekly papers, but they will not read it or tolerate it in their homes; and if a work by a modern degenerate should creep into a travelling library, those in charge of the system would hear from it in no uncertain terms. If librarians generally adopted the practice that prevails among a few independent librarians in Wisconsin—that of returning to the booksellers, or publishers, all stories that are found to be

indecent or that have been purchased through a lying or misleading review, such publishers and booksellers would begin to "sit up" and "take notice" before issuing more of the same sort of material.

LUTIE E. STEARNS.

PORTLAND, WIS. LIBRARY ASSOCIATION  
OF PORTLAND

It has been the policy of the Library Association of Portland since it has been a free institution to buy its new fiction with as much care as it is possible at a point so far from the book markets. The distance prevents many books being sent out on approval; so dependence must be placed upon reviews, upon lists that have presumably been carefully compiled and upon previous knowledge of the authors. These aids, unfortunately, sometimes prove broken reeds to lean upon and mistakes are made. It is difficult to discuss the problem book or the book of immoral tendency without referring to specific examples; the general discussion of the question was so ably handled for librarians by Mr. Bostwick at the last conference that there is very little left to add. This library buys very few books that are either on or over the "border line" — if you agree with the decision of the librarian and book committee. When such books are purchased it is either for their literary merit or for some special reason; for instance, a certain problem novel was purchased last winter and read by a class in sociology. On the other hand, if a novel is a real contribution to literature — which, alas! seldom happens — it is quickly purchased, immoral in tendency or not. This being an open shelf library, all these novels of doubtful moral teaching, together with certain classics, some few medical books, etc., are kept under lock and key in the librarian's office and marked with a "Minor label" plate. The catalog cards show no location and the small collection is held in mind without difficulty by the assistant. The young people seldom discover the existence of this forbidden fruit; they consult the catalog, and then finding the book missing from the shelves conclude that it is out in circulation. A few library-wise women with morbid tastes yearn for a sight of the "shut up shelves," but in vain, for no one is allowed to go to these shelves; books must be requested from the catalog. They are read consequently only by those who know what they are asking for. After all,

the crux of the whole matter is, what is the harmful book and what is not, and who knows the exact answer. On the open shelves of this library are volumes perhaps which are anathema to the library over the way, and that library may contain books to which this library would refuse shelf room. Who is to make the hard and fast rule, who is to decide it? It is the opinion of one librarian that the weak books, the slushy books with which the market is flooded do even more harm than the immoral books, and librarians could well take a stand against publishers and booksellers to save the brains of the country as well as the morals.

MARY FRANCES ISOM.

GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC LIBRARY

What shall be the policy of the library towards books of immoral, indecent, or unwholesome character or tendencies? Every library exercises a certain amount of censorship of a negative kind when it is forced by the meagerness of its funds to purchase only a limited number of the new books published. From the great number of books offered it chooses only a few, to that extent discriminating against the rest. By this negative censorship the library can to a large extent solve the problem of the undesirable book, simply because there are so many books above suspicion which it is not able to buy. But the question raised here refers more particularly to the use of books which are now, or are about to be, on its shelves, and about the propriety of which there may be a real doubt. The practice of no two institutions in this particular is exactly uniform. Indeed it is often difficult for the same institution (or the same individual) to be consistent with itself, even if that were desirable, for public opinion as well as the opinion of the individual changes with reference to whether the tendencies or character of certain books is wholesome or not. This applies not only to the so-called immoral, vulgar, and indecent books — books that deal with matters of sex, etc., but also books that discuss political or social problems.

For example, I understand that there are libraries where practically all books in favor of socialism are tabooed, and others where all published writings of Mr. Bryan, until recent years, were denied a place on the shelves. In fact, to the minds of certain per-



sons, any book which is a criticism of, or whose purpose is to change, the present social order is regarded as unwholesome, if not immoral, and therefore should have no place on library shelves, inasmuch as it is likely to awaken or engender class strife. To deal with books of this character it seems to me is not a difficult problem at all. Representatives of all shades of views on social, economic, and religious questions should have a place on library shelves. The policy of the library should be sympathetic, catholic, toward all political, economic, social, and religious questions. The only rule (which is the one that is applied by certain institutions which give lecture courses) is that the writer (or speaker) should speak with knowledge, sincerity, and sanity, and here the librarian or the library committee must be the judge as to whether a particular book or a particular writer discusses his subject with knowledge, sincerity, and sanity. Personally, I should be inclined to give the writer or the book the benefit of the doubt every time.

However, the most difficult problem, to my mind, is not with books of a social or economic character, but rather what to do with books that deal with the relations of the sexes, or that are absolutely indecent. In nearly every case, however, in a modern book of this kind, one need not read far to see that the writer is almost invariably insincere, and that the effort is made to appeal to the prurient or salacious tendencies which exist in so many people. A book of this kind, it seems to me, ought always to be shut out.

On the other hand, it must be recognized

that the manners and customs, not only of countries but also of periods in the same country, change with reference to such matters. Shakespeare and the other writers of his day refer to things with a freedom that would not be tolerated in a book at the present time, and yet such books ought not to be shut out from circulation simply because the times have changed and with them public opinion. Another rule of inclusion even with writers of the present day who may justly be regarded as immoral or indecent is the following: If a book contains great moral, literary, or scientific value it should be placed on the library shelves, but so kept that it would not be possible for it to fall into the hands of all classes of persons indiscriminately. Examples of this class are some of the books of Tolstoi and Havelock Ellis. In other words, a certain amount of discrimination and restriction in the use of certain books is desirable and necessary. The Grand Rapids Public Library has a number of books of this kind, some of which are kept in the vault, and access to them is directly through the librarian or assistant librarian; others are kept in the commissioners' room, and still others are starred, the star reminding the library attendant that a certain amount of discretion should be exercised before the book is permitted to be taken out. With regard to recent books where this more or less varied "censorship" has been exercised, in nearly every case the author's book is kept off the shelves on account of his insincerity, but usually it is "her."

SAMUEL H. RANCK.

#### A VIEW OF LIBRARIANSHIP FROM THE LIBRARY SCHOOL: AN ADDRESS TO A GRADUATING CLASS

My first impression when I entered the school some years ago, was that of a great enlargement of view such as we get from the tops of high buildings or mountains. Intimate relations with a great collection of books, familiar handling of them, combined with the prospect that this intimacy with the best literature might continue, indeed, was expected to continue, for the rest of my life, gave rise to a feeling of exaltation. It was like a trip to Europe, or like a liberal education, the revealing of a new world of interest, profit and delight.

Very soon, however, I began to be pressed by the drudgery of the situation in attempting to follow the bewildering minutia of a correct catalog card and was humiliated by a sense of the impossibility of ever learning to write a truly legible hand. After a while I grew accustomed to the grind of school work and took it as a matter of course and even achieved a small triumph or two with corresponding elation of spirit.

As time went on I found myself attaching more importance to accuracy just in proportion to my discovery of the meaning of



librarianship. For was it not the art of finding out things — hidden things — difficult things; and these things once found must needs be marked so that other people could find them. We, the librarians, were explorers, chart makers and road builders, putting up guide posts such that a wayfaring man, though a fool, might not miss his way. Librarianship became the art of finding a needle in a haystack and then of so locating the needle that it should never be lost again, at least not so much lost but that a librarian could promptly lay hands upon it. Every labyrinth would have its clue when librarianship should prevail and we were at the "forefront" of this great improving, civilizing movement, or at the "storm center," whichever metaphor suits best.

Farther along in the course there came a strong desire to pass examinations and to have credits leading up to certificates and diplomas, for these meant employment, opportunity and reward. These are very strong incentives in all kinds of callings, and frequently they hide the real thing that lies beneath. Such ambitions are not altruistic. They have regard to yourself and your personal interests, and somehow I like to think that a person cannot spend a year at library school and be absolutely selfish. Classifying and cataloging, devising charging systems and bibliography making are the most unselfish processes in the world. The very essence of them is that they are to help other people, and they are not good for anything unless they do. The test of their excellence is in the degree of their usefulness. The selfishness of a librarian will appear in a consuming desire to be esteemed supremely unselfish. And even in spite of us the training works that way. Your observation may not in every case impress you to this effect, but you do not know how much native depravity some of us have to contend with, nor what we might have been without a chance in a library school.

What then is the real thing underneath all that we have been doing?

The underlying fact is that there is open before librarians an unusually fine and broad opportunity of making themselves valuable to entire communities by opening to them the great wealth of information and inspira-

tion to be found in books — a field so vast that the consequences to the individual worker are insignificant in the comparison, except that he can do nothing worth while unless he is properly taken care of. The material to be used in this service is inexhaustible. We have been trying to learn how to handle it; how to know it; to select, arrange and place it ready to hand; to surround it with attractions and open all ways to it and adapt it to classes and cases and to inspire self help. In doing this you have gone through much tedious detail and to a large extent your mind has been fixed on processes. At last you are through. You will break away from the bondage to process and realize that none of these things were ends in themselves — only means to a purpose. You will forget and neglect many things you have learned to do; at least I hope you will; but the habit of mind and action they have wrought in you will remain.

There occurs to me the figure of a ship in process of building. While the workmen are bringing together the parts and shaping and fastening them with bolts to make the structure strong and staunch they are giving all attention to the mechanics of it. The designer, no doubt, has in mind the coming rush of the elements and the strain of the storm, but carpenters and smiths walk her decks in absolute disregard of compass, chart or wind. But when she is launched all the process of building is forgotten and she ploughs the ocean for a great purpose and a distant port. And yet her success depends on the faithfulness with which the work in the shipyard was done.

And so with you. After the launching everything will be different. You will be plunged into real conditions. There will be problems and obstacles. You will not be called to account by instructors or with red ink. It will come in a different way. If your work is not good you will find it out by silence and neglect. You will seek for a response in the form of public interest, and if it does not come you will be studying out ways to compel it. You will measure results on a broader scale than that which sufficed to measure intervals for the imprint on a catalog card. Unconsciously you will observe those rhythmic intervals which make

music. Training does its work, not by cramming your memories with facts, but by certain subtle changes wrought in both the texture and habit of your minds that fit you to meet conditions and to take advantage of them, whether good or bad.

You will write many cards and make bibliographies in the future. These will not be tested by any teacher, but by your public. Your purpose in doing it will be new. I have been much impressed by a sermon which I once heard on our Lord's word to His disciples when he called them away from their nets and fishing boats. "From henceforth ye shall catch *men*." You may apply the thought as you will. We are not to be forever working for ourselves, but are to influence the great world around us, old and

young, of every class; to exert a strong positive influence on human minds and human hearts. This is going after bigger game than the little prizes of school life. If you were in earnest before you are more in earnest now. In a certain sense you cannot help your influence. You are sending it out in spite of yourselves. But with the great array of books you can marshal on the field you will make it tell, and your success will be measured by the many whose new impulses toward larger and higher living will have come from something which you have done in your library. You will not be without your reward. Those who have been associated with you here will follow your course with profound interest, and they will rejoice in that large success which they expect for you.

#### AN OLD-FASHIONED LIBRARIAN, THE LATE A. R. SPOFFORD

BY WORTHINGTON C. FORD, *Chief of Manuscripts, Library of Congress*

It was my fortune to come into connection with Mr. Spofford after he had laid aside the duties and responsibilities of the executive librarian, and had climbed into the niche of chief assistant librarian. The weight of the Library of Congress had been thrown off, so far as it concerned the appropriation and expenditures of money, and the appointments to places in the service, responsibilities which had always been distasteful to him, and performed only because they had been a necessary part of the functions of the librarian. The small force and smaller appropriations given to him in the Capitol were insufficient to maintain the collections to any like completeness, and the wonder is that he accomplished what he did accomplish with the meager means placed at his disposition. We can all remember him at the ugly center desk in the corridor assigned to the public part of the library, presiding over apparent chaos, and never without a list or catalog in his hand, replying to questions while reading, and courteously bringing an armful of books when the needed help was not at hand. His very nervous energy seemed out of place in that corridor, where to speak above a whisper was a crime, and where the reader had every facility for being uncomfortable and ran every

risk of taking cold from the many draughts that swept through the place. The chaos was in part intentional, for was not Mr. Spofford impressing upon every visitor the need for a new building, in which those files, boxes and bales could be given space and made accessible to the public? And a new building he did get, and he became the real librarian, in the older sense of the term.

For no one could come into contact with the man without realizing that he was an old-fashioned librarian, one who was more familiar with books than with the methods of managing a board of trustees or a committee of the legislature. He cared little what sums were given or how obtained, so long as he could have books, boxes of them, pouring into the library and subject to his examination. The practice and instincts of the bookseller, his earlier years' occupation, were uppermost, and his long service had given him a certain bibliographical knowledge, which rarely failed when called upon for definite information of printers, date of publication or the fact of possession or price. The thousands of volumes that passed over his desk were photographed in his mind, and such an experience, repeated day after day, sharpened a memory which was naturally

quick, and which was developed by the cramped condition of the library, making it necessary to remember the appearance of the book's cover and its position in some corner of an overcrowded alcove. Houdin, at a glance, could carry away so definite an impression of a crowded shop window that he could name almost every article in it, so highly had he trained his powers of observation. Spofford had much the same trained ability, and after a visit to another library he could bring away a definite recollection of what had caught his eye, a recollection that would persist for years.

Such a faculty was extremely useful in the old quarters of the library, but became less so in the new building, where all the latest mechanical appliances of a modern library were in use. The old librarian knew his books and the arrangement was a secondary matter. He knew where to find what was wanted, and he generally knew something of the inside of the book. The Library of Congress has outgrown the powers of such a librarian, and it was with a feeling of relief that Mr. Spofford took up the examination of catalogs, the collection of rarities, and recommendations in certain lines of books in which the library was comparatively weak. It was a standing joke that he was never without a catalog in hand or in pocket, whether in the street, in his carriage, at the lunch table or at an evening's entertainment. The charge was not true, but fell so little short of the truth as to have point. In his search for material he found his chief enjoyment, and no one can quite take his place, as no one now in the library has had his experience or his intense devotion to books as such, a devotion which was carried so far as to starve other qualities in him. For the last six years I saw much of him, and had abundant opportunity to test his knowledge of men and books. He was always more full on the latter, and would rarely express a definite opinion on the former. We read his mind indirectly, for he would put the question, "Was not A. of such a disposition?" or "Was not B. involved in that X. affair?"—questions which suggested their own answer. If he harbored any bitterness, if he had even been disappointed, or rebuffed (and what man in public life has escaped?), he never showed

it in speech or act; and in the six years I was with him I never heard him attack the reputation of a public man—even when that reputation was notorious. This was remarkable; for a man, who had been closely associated with Congressmen since 1861, had abundant opportunity to cultivate likes and dislikes of a positive character.

I think one reason of this was that his tastes were more literary than political. The passing show made some impression upon his mind, but an impersonal impression. He was not concerned in a current political combat, for he had seen no less than thirteen inauguration ceremonies, and knew that the men coming into power would retire from office as their predecessors had done, and without making more than a social impression upon him. His reminiscences of public men were few, and he does not seem to have possessed that warm admiration for any of them that calls for loyal allegiance and a sacrifice in their defense. He could recall that Congressman A. had come to the library often and had called for a certain class of books; he could assert that this same Congressman had prepared a report or taken part in a debate which tended to prove thus and so; but he could not place that report or debate in its true relation to the events of the time, nor could he judge of the standing of this particular member among his contemporaries. The isolated fact made a lasting impression, and the great mass of such facts he had stored in memory gave him that encyclopedic character so useful to the anxious inquirer. It was this same faculty of a memory trained to observe closely only what was immediately before the eye that gave him this command over fact.

For Mr. Spofford was in no sense a great librarian nor a trained thinker. A geologist who has been trained in the field has often a more immediately practical knowledge than one who has passed through a university. His observation may be quicker, and his conclusions arrived at more rapidly, because he is not hampered by theories or because he is ignorant of much that would make the more highly trained man cautious in expressing himself. Spofford had the practical training, and all his industry and wide reading, great as it was, could not compensate for the lack

of a spirit of true scholarship which should inspire the great librarian. We went to him to know what was in the library, and what particular editions were to be recommended; but beyond such definite facts his limitations became apparent. The knowledge that he did possess served admirably in a city like Washington, where there is little intellectual atmosphere, and where an assumption of literature will accept a quite superficial training and expression. He was distinctly useful where he was, ready to refer to chapter and page of certain books, to titles or classes of others, and to tabulated information on tariff or commerce. For nearly forty years he was the Library of Congress, and his name will be indissolubly connected with its growth and its new building.

But the library had outgrown this particular kind of man. His special usefulness is supplied by an elaborate and scientifically prepared card catalog, and by the mechanical bibliographer, who has his finding lists and Poole's Index at his elbow, with a corps of assistants to prepare them or reply to inquiries on special subjects. His secondary utility is supplied by experts devoted to a certain branch of library activity, special divisions of subjects, or rather objects of collecting, for the books themselves still dominate the men in charge of them.

#### THE NEED OF A SCIENTIFIC BIBLIOGRAPHY OF INCUNABULA

The principal article in the June number of the *Zentralblatt für Bibliothekswesen*, by R. Galle, on "Lists of incunabula and literary science," deals with a very important phase of the subject. In brief, the author's points are as follows:

In how far the contents of a work are to be taken note of in bibliographies and catalogs, is an old question and one that has not yet attained recognized solution. Granting that a catalog and a bibliography are two quite different things, and that the function of the library is only to furnish the former, one may still desire "scientific" accuracy in the library list. But this desideratum does not seem to have been sufficiently regarded in all quarters. The fundamental rule that the name of the author shall determine the entry of a book, is made difficult in practice in this case, where changes in attribution are frequent. But in the interest of literary science the rule should be adhered to as much as possible. If in-

cunabula are designated according to the great descriptive lists, such as Hain, Copinger, Proctor, etc., without regard to their errors of fact, the compiler may be unjustly suspected of insufficient knowledge and the user will be misled into accepting the concise and definite statement of the catalog as authoritative. Voulliémes' inventory of the Berlin incunabula, a very estimable work, is cited as offering noteworthy instances of inaccuracy and inconsistency, although any other similar list might give rise to the same strictures. Thus, the *De Disciplina scholarium* is entered under Boethius; Petrus Blesensis and Petrus Lutrea are treated as one and the same person; *Destructorium vitiorum*, written in the 15th century, is credited to Alexander de Hales, who died in 1245; William, Archbishop of Paris, is named as the author of various writings which are really by a man who lived two centuries later, and so on. If pressure of work does not permit librarians to take better account of scientific facts, the men of science must all the more insistently be urged to produce a scientific bibliography of incunabula.

Consideration of a few fundamental principles to govern the preparation of such a work are in order. A bibliography must so fix the place of each separate work that its characteristic position within literature as a whole is designated in so far as is possible from the work itself, and for that the contents alone are determinative. The ideal form of a scientific bibliography implies a systematic arrangement divided into periods of time.

It is surprising that Hain and others have hitherto published indexes only of printers and places of publication, when name and subject indexes would be of obvious use. Such additional indexes would show the "Germania" of Tacitus under Diodorus Siculus, the grammarians Phocas, Servius, etc., under Beda, they would bring out the names of publishers who played their part in humanistic endeavor, and so forth.

It is a matter of congratulation that such a name index has been included in the program for the general catalog (*Gesamtkatalog*) of incunabula. But the consideration of the contents of each work is not contemplated, so that completion and publication of this catalog will still leave the necessity for a scientific bibliography. It will perhaps be most practical first to limit the work to Hain; that would lay a broad foundation of not a little scientific value. Co-operation would be necessary on the part of specialists.

"The task of preparing a bibliography of incunabula, or even of Hain only," concludes Galle, "thus seems worthy of great effort." He is hopeful as to the question of money, "the only difficult point," and offers a sample of the bibliography aimed at, in case his article arouses any interest.

F. WEITENKAMPF.



## MEETING OF THE ENGLISH LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

THE 31st annual meeting of the Library Association of the United Kingdom was held at Brighton, Aug. 24-27, with a post-conference trip to Arundel on the 28th. The visitors and delegates, over 200 in number, were received by the mayor and the local committee on the evening of the 24th in the Permanent Art Gallery, attached to and administered in conjunction with the Brighton Public Library.

At the first morning session, Mr. C. Thomas-Stanford, in his presidential address, advocated the extension of the library movement to the rural districts. He suggested as a further step in the line of making the public library the central depository for all records relating to local history, the possible transfer to the public libraries of the parish records, now known to not always have the best of care. After emphasizing the impossibility of any serious library growth in the rural districts under the existing penny rate by which thousands of rural parishes could not raise more than a hundred dollars, he advocated the establishment of a comprehensive scheme to be operated through the county councils. Even with the penny rate the average county council could establish reference libraries at convenient centers, and lending libraries with relays of books in every village. As the county councils already have control of all educational matters, the school buildings and the teaching staff might be used for the operation of the proposed lending libraries.

A paper by Mr. A. O. Jennings, chairman of the Brighton Library committee, on "Fiction in the public library" called forth a good deal of discussion. What attitude should the members of the Association take on this ever-recurring vexed question? The argument of the "fictionists" that the public wanted fiction above all things, and that the library committee and the librarian were merely servants of the public, impressed the speaker no more than if one should argue that the taxpayers would be more interested in nice cheerful highly colored oleographs than in real work of art. No one would contend that the committee which in response to this demand supplied a large number, or indeed any number of oleographs, would be doing its duty. The argument that if you can only attract your readers by fiction, you will create a taste for reading which will gradually refuse to be satisfied by anything except good literature, is in the opinion of Mr. Jennings flatly contradicted by experience. If you pander to this reading of fiction simply as fiction, said Mr. Jennings, you establish a habit which it is extremely difficult to break and the mind becomes disinclined to exert itself at all in reading. It would be just as reasonable to say that if you want to create a taste for solid foods you should furnish an unlimited supply of sweets. The following resolutions

moved by Mr. Jennings were carried by the meeting:

1. That the function of a public lending library is to provide good literature for circulation among its readers, and that the same test must be applied to its works of fiction as to the books in its other departments; they must have literary or educational value.

2. That every public lending library should be amply supplied with fiction that has attained the position of classical literature, such as the works of Scott, Dickens, Thackeray, George Eliot; and, among more modern writers, Stevenson, Kipling, Meredith, Hardy. These names are, of course, merely given by way of illustration, and each library must be allowed to make its own rules as to admission into the charmed circle, provided that it can satisfy its conscience that the suggested test has been applied.

3. That the provision of mere ephemeral fiction of no literary value, even if without offense, is not within the proper province of a public lending library.

Mr. L. Stanley Jast took exception to Mr. Jennings's views, believing that when a complete survey was taken of the activities of the public libraries of the country, it would be found that the circulation of fiction played a very small part in them. It was only when the activities of the lending department were studied apart from those of the rest of the library that any color at all was lent to the assertion that an undue amount of fiction was circulated. He defended the issue of indifferent fiction on the ground that the thrill induced by good literature in cultured people was induced in untutored people by the reading of third and fourth rate novels. In every art people always began by liking the wrong things, or if they did like the right things it was for the wrong reasons. The same was true in literature. The first thing was to get the people to come to the library, and to do that a certain amount of literature which was not literature must be supplied. Mr. Jast elaborated his views on the fiction question in a reply to a "leader" in the *London Telegraph*, which made a sweeping attack on the educational side of the work of public libraries, called forth by the paper of Mr. Jennings. Mr. Jast emphasized the difference between *circulation* and *use*, arguing that this difference must be comprehended before the figures could be understood, that a borrower who keeps out a serious book for a fortnight is using the library just as much as the borrower who in the same time reads three or four novels. The recorded issues from the municipal reference libraries of the entire country in one year total 11,000,000 volumes. A conservative estimate places the unrecorded use of books in open shelves at 9,000,000 volumes, making a total of 20,000,000 volumes consulted in the reference libraries annually, of which only 27,500 volumes are fiction. The total issues from the lending libraries are 60,000,000 volumes, of which it is true that 38,400,000 are fiction. "Estimating that the total number of visits paid to the public reading rooms of the country in a year amount to 95,000,000," says Mr. Jast, "we may regard these visits as representing each one issue,



though as a matter of fact they will represent more than that, of which not more than 10 per cent. will be fiction. This brings the grand total from all the departments of the public libraries in one year to 175,000,000, of which only 47,727,500 are fiction. The percentage of fiction circulated, therefore, is 27 per cent. Let me add, in conclusion, that the work of public libraries and its value cannot be fully measured by statistics of this sort at all, any more than the work of our schools can be fully measured by examination results."

Mr. W. W. Topley, of the Croydon Public Library Committee, outlined the work of the Net books committee. He regretted to report that they had not succeeded in obtaining directly any actual relief from the pressing burden of the net book agreement. The last 18 months had not, however, been entirely wasted, as there had been a clearing of the issues involved. The publishers had granted recognition of the distinction between public libraries and the general public in the matter of book purchases, both as large buyers and as spending public money. They were now willing to agree to some modification of the net book agreement in the direction of special terms to libraries provided the Booksellers' Association would assent. The booksellers as an organized body were, however, still hostile to any differentiation, though certain large dealers were supplying books to libraries at special rates. The fact that certain libraries and other large book purchasers get an equivalent to a discount on "net" books in the form of extra discounts on other purchases is an argument used by the Booksellers' Association for maintaining the present ruling. There seems, however, to be some possibility of the booksellers reconsidering their rule, and taking definite action along the lines proposed by the Net books committee.

Mr. Wilfrid Walter, himself an artist, read an able paper on the "Interior decoration of libraries," written by himself in conjunction with Mr. C. H. Grinling. He introduced his subject by describing the impressions of a reader in a public library, looking up from a colored page in an illustrated magazine to the blank wall surrounding him and feeling an impulse driving him outdoors. While the speaker deplored the blankness and dreariness of the walls of the present day, he suggested that possibly it was a reaction from the florid decorations and gaudy abominations of the past. Although the blank spaces afford temporary relief, we soon find them tedious companions. After describing the decorations of the Boston and Chicago public libraries, the Library of Congress, the John Rylands Library and others, and detailing some of the motifs furnished by the history of Great Britain, the speaker made an eloquent appeal for the decoration of the smaller libraries of native English artists.

The second morning session was opened with

a remarkably well illustrated and richly instructive lecture on "English embroidered bookbindings," by Mr. Cyril Davenport of the British Museum. As the speaker is the recognized authority on the subject of historical English bookbinding, his classification and selection of specimens commanded special attention. The lantern slides showed remarkable metallic effects of gold and silver thread and ornamentation, and the delicacy and lustre of the jewels, especially the seed pearls, were admirably brought out. The slides were colored by Mr. Davenport's own hand, and no one who heard this lecture and saw these illustrations could question the wisdom of Mr. Davenport's having been chosen to edit the "Connoisseur's library."

The report of the special committee on registration called forth an animated discussion. A strong effort is being made by some library workers to have all the librarians of the country enrolled in one organization, presumably the Library Association, the officers of which would "register" or group the members in a classified list. The entry and continuance of a name in this list would serve as a criterion of a man's standing in the profession and somewhat of a guarantee to trustees of a candidate's preparation and fitness for librarianship. Mr. Ballinger, of Cardiff, clearly set forth many of the advantages which might accrue to individual librarians from membership in one large strong body of fellow workers and careful "registration" after the manner of some of the other "learned" professions. Various objections to the proposed plan were brought forward by several speakers, and Mr. W. Benson Thorne, president of the Library Assistants' Association, speaking in an unofficial capacity, suggested as a substitute a registration board, entirely independent of both the Library Association and the Library Assistants' Association, neither of which he thought was representative of the profession as a whole.

In the evening, Mr. Jast gave an illustrated lecture on the work of public libraries in the United Kingdom, based upon slides prepared by Mr. James Duff Brown, of the Islington Public Libraries. The lecture was open to the public, and well merited the hearty appreciation it received from the large and attentive audience. Despite Mr. Jast's apologies for the haste in which the lecture had been prepared, it was voted by the meeting to have the lecture printed, if possible, with some illustrations.

Alderman H. Plummer, chairman of the Public Libraries Committee at Manchester, contributed the important paper of Thursday morning. It was on "Personal impressions of American libraries." The alderman had recently paid a visit to America in company with another member of the Manchester Committee, Councillor Abbot, and Mr. C. W. Sutton, the chief librarian of Manchester. Mr. Plummer began with a tribute to the

warmth of the welcome accorded to his party, which was met by Mr. F. P. Hill and members of the Brooklyn Library Committee, as their boat, the *Lusitania*, steamed up to its dock. The speaker pointed to this hearty welcome as indicative of the feeling of brotherhood, that unity of ideal and purpose which made the whole world of librarians kin. Mr. Plummer spoke of Mr. Carnegie as one of the world's supreme benefactors, and thought that the marvel of the acquisition of his wealth was less impressive than its distribution. Touching upon the relations existing between the American library and its public, he said that the ideal aimed at was greater freedom and less officialism. He was also impressed by the loyalty, amounting almost to devotion, shown to the head librarian by the staffs of several libraries which he visited. Mr. Sutton, who opened the discussion of Mr. Plummer's paper, said that while the English librarians were just as capable, the Americans had gone about their work in a much more systematic and liberal manner and had trained their young librarians to a much larger extent than was the case in England. Mr. Jast said that he had been impressed with the extraordinary friendliness shown by American library authorities to English visitors, and the very generous way in which they spoke of the work of English libraries. The prominence of women in American library work and the lack of male assistants were touched upon by Mr. Jast, who also admitted that American libraries were full of suggestions to English librarians. He quoted Mrs. Fairchild as having said that if American libraries had more men in their service, and English libraries more women among their assistants, both would gain by it.

Dr. E. A. Baker, in his paper on "Some recent developments of library co-operation," said that hitherto public libraries had been isolated establishments, or groups of establishments under isolated authorities, working for a common object, but without concerted effort and by as many different methods and systems as there were distinct authorities, the result being great overlapping and waste of energy in some directions, with complete impotence in others, and innumerable anomalies, the most glaring of which were exhibited by the libraries of the metropolis. Both within the profession and without there was a feeling that the time was ripe for centralization and co-ordination, if possible, under state control, but in default of this, voluntary co-operation would enable libraries to perform many necessary duties that would otherwise be unpracticable. Mr. Baker pointed out the benefits that had already accrued to libraries from the voluntary co-operative work of the Library Association.

The official dinner in the banquet hall of the Royal Pavilion, with its florid pseudo oriental wall decorations and Chinese motifs, dating back to George the Fourth's day, was

a most dignified occasion. The after-dinner speeches were interesting, and the solemn professional toastmaster in his livery, the mayor with the insignia of his office, the presence of titled personages, the number of toasts and healths drunk, all served to emphasize the fact that this was not an A. L. A. affair.

Some of the essential differences between the English and American Library Association meetings are the much larger proportion of men in attendance at the former, the absence of women from the program, the non-existence of sectional meetings, and the dignity of the parliamentary order with which the meetings are conducted. The A. L. A. programs are fuller and the attendance much larger, but whether the average visitor to Minnetonka took away with him more than did the general run of those at Brighton is more than I would venture to say. The English programs are printed with inter-leaving, which makes note-taking easy, but the English newspapers print such full accounts of the proceedings that notes, by way of summaries, are quite unnecessary. An entire page of the local paper is frequently given to a single day's session and many of the addresses are reported in full. There is no attempt to attract readers by any such headlines as appeared in a Minneapolis paper last June—"Librarians approve dime novels." The clearly printed notice on the platform requesting those who wished to take part in the discussion of any paper to hand in their names and addresses, and the placard notifying speakers that the time allowed for discussion was limited to five minutes, and that the presiding officer's bell would ring at the expiration of four and a half minutes\* were among the features that might well be considered in the conduct of our A. L. A. meetings.

The literary form of many of the addresses and the interest taken in the discussions were noteworthy features of the meeting. The English librarians apparently give a little more time than we do to conventionalities in the way of words of appreciation of a paper, votes of thanks, remarks accompanying the seconding of a motion, and the like. They also prepare themselves more seriously for the general discussion of the papers read. As a visitor I was impressed by the amount of thought given to the arrangements for the social side of the program, by the dignity of the formal receptions, by the charm of the garden parties and afternoon teas, and by the beauty of the splendid country estates opened to the visiting librarians. Personally, I was glad to have the privilege of seeing once more some of the librarians whom I had met at Plymouth in 1901, and of meeting others, and to have enjoyed again the fine flavor of English hospitality.

THEODORE W. KOCH.

\* This rule was rigidly observed, with the courteous exception made in the case of the writer when asked to discuss the paper on American libraries.

# CLASSIFICATION OF THE LIBRARY OF THE (NEW YORK STATE) PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION FOR THE FIRST DISTRICT

By DR. R. H. WHITTEN, *Librarian New York  
State Public Service Commission for  
the First District*

THE powers and duties of the Public Service Commission being confined largely to the supervision and control of city transit, gas and electric companies and to the planning and construction of subways, the library of the commission is a very special collection in relation to these subjects. Though but recently started it now contains about 1800 books on the shelves and 1700 articles and pamphlets in the vertical filing cases, making a total collection of 3500. The collection of article and pamphlets is in many respects the most unique and useful part of the library. It contains valuable, up-to-date material on almost all of the numerous questions arising in connection with the work of the commission. Most of the articles are from the technical and engineering journals, but there are many from the law magazines and journals of a general or popular character. We keep track of several hundred periodicals either at first hand or through published indexes, in order to secure for the file the articles important to the work of the commission.

This material has been classified according to the headings of a classification carefully worked out to meet the special needs and problems of the commission. It was at once apparent that the existing standard classifications, while adapted to the general collections of a public library, were neither intended nor adapted to the needs of a special collection such as this. The classification adopted has proved extremely satisfactory in the arrangement and cataloging of the periodical articles and pamphlets which form so large a proportion of the library of the commission. The following is a brief explanation of the general arrangement and system of notations. Librarians specially interested may obtain on application a full list of the subject headings used in the classification.

## Arrangement

Books and pamphlets are arranged in the following general order:

- First—General reference books—bibliographies, encyclopedias, directories, handbooks.
- Second—Books classified by subject. The subjects are alphabetically arranged and under each subject the books are arranged alphabetically by author.
- Third—Books classified by country, state and city, alphabetically arranged.

Fourth—Bound sets of periodicals, alphabetically arranged.

*Types of headings.* In general there are three distinct types of main class headings:

- (1) The various utilities (gas, electricity, railroads, etc.).
- (2) The various headings that in addition to being used as main headings are also used as subheadings under the various utilities.
- (3) The regional headings (country, state and city.)

The utility headings (type No. 1) are used solely as main headings—never as subheadings. The headings of type No. 2 are used both as main headings and also as subheadings under the specific utilities. The regional headings are used both as main headings and also as subheadings under both the above types of main headings.

Main headings which are used also as subheadings under each of the utilities are:

Accidents	Municipal ownership
Accounts	Noises
Combination	Public Finance
Employees	Rates
Finance	Sanitation
Franchise	Technology

*Controlling headings.* The utility heading is always the controlling heading. That is, a copy of a gas franchise is placed under Gas—Franchise, not under Franchise—Gas. An article relating to transit accidents is placed under Transit—Accidents, not under Accidents—Transit. The headings Franchise and Accidents are used as main headings only for articles or books relating to accidents or franchises generally and not confined to the franchises or accidents of a particular utility.

*Regional headings.* The regional headings are separated from the other subject headings. They are divided into two alphabets: (1) the states and cities of the United States; (2) foreign countries and cities. Within each of these groups the states are alphabetized and the principal cities are alphabetized under each state. As an exception to this rule New York City, New York State, and the United States Government are placed first, second and third, respectively. Annual reports of a particular state or city are placed under that state or city. New York City documents are put under the main head New York City. Massachusetts railroad reports are put under the main head Massachusetts. In addition books of a general nature relating to a particular state or city are put under that state or city. A book relating to the government of London is put under Great Britain—London. On the other hand, a book or article covered by a single subject or utility within a particular state or city is put under such subject or utility heading. An article relating to London transit is put under Transit—Great Britain—London. An article relating to

franchises in Chicago is put under Franchise—Illinois—Chicago. An article relating to the Chicago electric light franchise is put under Electricity—Franchise—Illinois—Chicago. When used as a subheading the regional head always comes last; it is subordinate to all other subheadings, e.g., Transit—Accounts—Audit—Illinois—Chicago.

#### Notation

Letters of the alphabet are used to represent all main headings other than regional, e.g., Fr Franchise; Ra Railroad. Regional headings are represented by arabic numerals preceded by the letter X when used as main headings, but without the letter X when used as subheadings, e.g., X10 New York City, X32 Illinois, X323 Chicago, and Tr10 Transit—New York City, Tr32 Transit—Illinois, Tr323 Transit—Chicago.

The same notation means the same thing wherever it occurs. Ac always means accidents, whether as a main heading or subheading, e.g., Ac Accidents; EcAc Electricity—Accidents; GaAc Gas—Accidents; RaAc Railroads—Accidents. The same number is used for a given city wherever it occurs, e.g., X401 Boston; Ec401 Electricity—Boston; Ga401 Gas—Boston; Ra401 Railroads—Boston.

States and countries are always designated by two figures; cities by three figures, with the exception of New York City, which has two. These numbers should be read as decimals, though the decimal point is uniformly omitted, e.g., 401 Boston follows 40 Massachusetts and precedes 41 Michigan.

The notation for general reference books begins with the single letter A, e.g., A4 Encyclopedias; A5 Directories. Regional books begin with the single letter X, e.g., X10 New York City; X17 New York State; X171 Albany. Bound sets of periodicals begin with the single letter Z, e.g., Z E4 Electrical World; Z S7 Street Railway Journal.

#### Book Number

The books in each class (except a Reference and X Regional) are arranged alphabetically by author. A book by Meyer on franchises in New York City is designated thus:

Fr10 | which | Franchise—New York City  
M9 | means | Meyer

The book number is placed on the back of the book, on the book plate and on the upper left hand corner of the catalog card.

#### File number

All magazine clippings and pamphlets are kept in vertical file drawers. They are arranged under exactly the same headings as the books on the shelves. The pamphlets and articles under each head are arranged chronologically according to date of publication. An article published in 1908 relating to franchises in New York City is designated thus:

Fr10 | which | Franchise—New York City  
8-340 | means | 1908, no. 340\*

The file number is placed on the upper left hand corner of each article or pamphlet and on the upper left hand corner of the index or catalog card.

#### Articles in bound periodicals

When index cards are made for articles in bound periodicals or in the current numbers that will be bound the notation in the upper left hand corner of the card is an exact reference to the location of the periodical and to the volume and page where the article will be found. An article in the *Electrical World* for May 2, 1908, is designated thus:

Z E4 | which | Periodicals—Electrical World  
51:890 | means | Volume 51, page 890

#### Catalog

The card catalog is in three main divisions, each alphabetically arranged: First. Author and title; Second. Subject headings, alphabetically arranged; Third. Regional headings, alphabetically arranged. The subject headings used in the classification are retained in the catalog and used in their various combinations. An article classified in the file under Transit—Franchise—New York City is cataloged under that heading and also under the two other combinations:

Franchise—Transit—New York City.  
New York City—Transit—Franchise.

#### ESPERANTO RECOGNIZED BY UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

ESPERANTO has been recognized officially by the United States Government in the appointment of Major Paul F. Straub, of the army medical corps, to represent this country in the Fourth International Esperanto Congress, held at Dresden, Saxony, August 16 to 22.

The War Department library was the first institution in Washington to recognize the value of Esperanto as an auxiliary language, and it began the accumulation of Esperanto literature in January, 1906. The Washington Esperanto Society was organized in the spring of 1907.

That Esperanto has taken a firm root throughout the world is indicated by the number of groups formed in various countries and the diversity of their scope and composition. At the end of December, 1907, the total number of Esperanto schools and societies throughout the world was 753. At the present time the total is practically one thousand. Another proof of the progress of the Esperanto movement is the constant appearance of new Esperanto periodicals. On June 25 last there were fifty-five Esperanto gazettes, most of them monthlies, an increase of eleven over the number of December, 1907.

\*All articles or pamphlets, of whatever class, published in the same year are numbered consecutively. This is the 340th for 1908.



## BEST BOOKS OF 1907

(From *New York Libraries*, July, 1908.)

THE result of the general vote by New York librarians and a few others interested, for the 50 books of 1907 to be first chosen for a village library, is given below. The tentative selection prepared by the state library bookboard included 1278 titles selected from the 9620 books brought out in America during the year. The table includes 73 titles, embracing books which received the highest vote in each class, arranged in each group in the order of votes. This is simply a composite vote on new books and must not be mistaken for the deliberate and balanced recommendation of the librarians of the state. The state library will issue later its annotated list of 250 books of 1907 recommended to small libraries.

By some accident of printing, Buckman's "Old steamboat days on the Hudson river," Grafton Press, \$1.25 net, which had been approved for entry in the list, was omitted. It provides interesting details in the evolution of steam navigation, from Fulton's *Clermont* to the present finely equipped side-wheelers and propellers, and is well illustrated. Several voters kindly responded to the request of the preface for suggestions of valuable books overlooked in the compilation. In some instances the titles mentioned had appeared in the issue for 1906 and in others they belonged with books of 1908; but among the eligible books thus noted attention should here be called to the attractive collection entitled "The golden staircase: poems and verses for children," chosen by Louey Chisholm, with pictures by M. D. Spooner, Putnam, \$2.50 net; and to "Jamestown tributes and toasts," compiled and published by J. W. Bullard, Lynchburg, Va. (\$1.50), which has proved practically useful as a collection of patriotic quotations, seals, emblems, etc.

Books of 1907 having highest votes in various classes are:

## REFERENCE BOOKS AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

- BAKER. History in fiction.  
FIELD. Fingerposts to children's reading.  
BAILEY, ed. Cyclopaedia of American agriculture.  
HENLEY's ten thousand selected scientific, chemical, technical and household recipes, formulas and processes.

## PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION

- JAMES. Pragmatism.  
MATHEWS. The church and the changing order.  
LINDSAY. Gloria Christi.  
RAUSCHENBUSH. Christianity and the social crisis.

## SOCIOLOGY AND EDUCATION

- ADDAMS. Newer ideals of peace.  
COMMONS. Races and immigrants in America.  
ROOT. The citizen's part in government.  
HADLEY. Standards of public morality.  
ROLLINS. What can a young man do.  
ALLEN. Home, school, and vacation.

## CUSTOMS AND FOLKLORE

- SCHAUFFLER, ed. Christmas.  
SCHAUFFLER, ed. Thanksgiving.

## NATURAL SCIENCE

- GIBSON. Electricity of today.  
ST. JOHN. Wireless telegraphy.  
MARTIN. The friendly stars.  
LOWELL. Mars and its canals.

## USEFUL ARTS

- GULICK. The efficient life.  
LAUGHLIN, ed. The complete dressmaker.  
DUNCAN. Chemistry of commerce.

## FINE ARTS

- CAFFIN. Story of American painting.  
PRAET. History of music.  
REXFORD. Four seasons in the garden.  
MUTHER. History of painting.  
VAN DYKE. Studies in pictures.  
COX. Painters and sculptors.

## AMUSEMENTS AND SPORTS

- EURBOUGHS. Camping and tramping with Roosevelt.  
WHITE. Camp and trail.

## LITERATURE.

- STEVENSON and BUTLER, comp. Days and deeds.  
VAN DYKE. Days off, and other digressions.  
BRYANT. Stories to tell to children.  
LUCAS, comp. The gentlest art.  
GRAYSON, pseud. Adventures in contentment.  
BENSON. Beside still waters.

## DESCRIPTION AND TRAVEL

- WALLACE. The long Labrador trail.  
FEARY. Nearest the pole.  
WENDELL. France of today.  
HALE. South Americans.

## HISTORY

- SAKURAI. Human bullets.  
GRIFFIS. The Japanese nation in evolution.  
AS THE HAGUE ORDAINS.  
HART, ed. The American nation. v. 24. National problems, 1885-97, by D. R. Dewey.  
ALEXANDER. Military memoirs of a Confederate.  
BRADY. Northwestern fights and fighters.

## BIOGRAPHY

- SCHURS. Reminiscences.  
WISTER. The seven ages of Washington.  
GOSSE. Father and son.  
WOODBURY. Ralph Waldo Emerson.  
BATES. Lincoln in the telegraph office.  
MORGAN. Theodore Roosevelt.  
RALEIGH. Shakespeare.

## FICTION

- PARKER. The weavers.  
DE MORGAN. Alice-for-Short.  
BURNETT. The shuttle.  
WIGGIN. New chronicles of Rebecca.  
HALL. Aunt Jane of Kentucky.  
WHARTON. Fruit of the tree.  
SMITH. Romance of an old-fashioned gentleman.  
DE LA PASTURE. The lonely lady of Grosvenor Square.  
FRAULEIN SCHMIDT and Mr. Anstruther.

## JUVENILE

- ACAMA. Harper's electricity book for boys.  
DOUBLEDAY. Birds that every child should know.  
MARIE. Famous stories every child should know.  
ADAMS. Harper's outdoor book for boys.  
BARBOUR. Spirit of the school.  
WIGGIN. Pinafore Palace.  
DOWNES. Fire fighters and their pets.  
RICE. Captain June.  
TOMLINSON. The camp-fire of Mad Anthony.  
AARUD. Lisbeth Longfrock.



## AMERICAN LIBRARY INSTITUTE

RESPONDING to a query circular from the committee on program, in August, a large proportion of the Fellows voted for holding a meeting of the Institute in New York City in December next. Indications were also given of likely attendance then by half or more of the present membership.

The committee, therefore, will in due season give notice of a meeting to be held at that place, probably beginning Thursday, Dec. 10, together with the program prepared for discussion.

HENRY J. CARR, *Secretary*.

## NEW YORK LIBRARY ASSOCIATION MEETING

THE program for the 18th annual meeting of the New York Library Association, Sept. 21-28, is given as follows:

*Monday, 8.15 p.m.*—Greeting. Address of the president. An address is hoped for from Governor Hughes. Treasurer's report, reports of standing committees.

*Tuesday, 10 a.m.*—Round table on staff meetings, conducted by Miss Bessie Sargent Smith, of the Utica Public Library. Among those who will discuss the subject will be Miss Anna R. Phelps, Miss Mary L. Davis, Mrs. B. S. Fulton, Miss Frances L. Rathbone, Mrs. S. C. Fairchild, and Miss Julia A. Hopkins.

*Tuesday, 8.15 p.m.*—Books for rural communities. Address by Dr. L. H. Bailey, director New York State College of Agriculture, Cornell University; discussion by Prof. Charles H. Tuck and Miss Martha Van Rensselaer, both of the State College of Agriculture, and Miss Grace L. Betteridge, Miss Zaidee Brown, and Mr. Asa Wynkoop, all of the State Education department.

*Wednesday, 10 a.m.*—Book symposium, conducted by Mrs. S. C. Fairchild: A prophet without honor, Mr. Arthur E. Bostwick; David Livingstone as a children's hero, Miss Clara W. Hunt; The place, the man and the book, Miss Sarah B. Askew; Three minute talks: William Allingham's diary, Mr. Edwin H. Anderson; "The servant in the house," by Charles Rann Kennedy, Miss Mabel R. Haines; "Mother" by Maxim Gorky, Miss Corinne Bacon; "Industrial democracy," by J. T. Laughlin, Mr. A. Q. Peck; "A perfect tribute" by Mrs. M. R. S. Andrews, Miss Caroline M. Underhill; "Marius the epicurean" by Walter Pater, Miss Mary W. Plummer; "Chats on old prints" by Arthur Hayden, Miss Martha W. Wheeler; "Spirits of modern philosophy" by Josiah Royce, Mr. Asa Wynkoop.

*Wednesday, 8.15 p.m.*—Library training in normal schools, conducted by Miss Mary W. Plummer. Report of Committee on normal schools, Miss Plummer chairman; Library training in normal schools, by J. Edward Banta, superintendent of public schools, Binghamton, N. Y.; Suggested outline of a course of training for normal schools, by Miss Ida M. Mendenhall, librarian of the Genesee Nor-

mal school; What the librarian may do for the high school, by Miss Mary E. Hall, librarian of the Girls' High School in Brooklyn.

The library in colonial New York; lantern-slide lecture by Mr. Austin Baxter Keep.

*Thursday, 8.15 p.m.*—Neglected opportunities: The library's neglect of the scholar, by Mr. Paul Elmer More, associate editor of the *Nation*; The public library and the city government, or what public libraries should do for municipal departments and officials, by Mr. Walter M. Briggs, of the Brooklyn Public Library; The educational opportunity of the library budget, by Dr. W. H. Allen, secretary of the Bureau of Municipal Research, New York City.

*Friday, 8.15 p.m.*—Story-telling in libraries, conducted by Miss Annie Carroll Moore, of the New York Public Library; Choosing a story, illustrated by the telling of a fairy story, Miss Mary Douglas, New York Public Library; Adapting a story, illustrated by rendering of Stevenson's "Bottle imp," Miss Anna C. Tyler, Pratt Institute Free Library; The use of a story by a state organizer, illustrated by the telling of an Uncle Remus story, Miss Sarah Byrd Askew, of the New Jersey State Library Commission. Short accounts of story hour and reading clubs will be given by Miss Clara Whitehill Hunt, Brooklyn Public Library, Miss Harriet Hassler, Queensborough Public Library, Miss May Massee, Buffalo Public Library, and Miss Carolyn French Gleason, Utica Public Library.

*Saturday, 8.15 p.m.*—Report of the auditing committee and of the committee on resolutions. Miscellaneous business. Election of officers. During the week Miss Anna R. Phelps, one of the state organizers, will conduct an exhibit and demonstration of the elementary processes in the organization of small libraries.

A reception committee, a committee on indoor entertainment and an outing committee will be appointed and announced on the bulletin board.

## American Library Association

## COMMITTEES.

Mr. W. C. Kimball has been chosen to succeed Mr. Thomas D. Jones, resigned, as trustee of the Endowment fund for the term of one year. A committee on library pensions has been constituted as follows: George F. Bowerman, chairman; William D. Johnston, Reuben Gold Thwaites.

## EXECUTIVE OFFICES.

The Board has voted to renew the existing lease on the present Executive offices at 34 Newbury street, Boston, for one year, from Sept. 1, 1908, the Publishing Board to pay one-half the rent, as in the past two years. In this action Mr. Henry E. Legler, chairman of the Publishing Board, voted with the Executive Board, according to action of the Council at Minnetonka.

J. I. WYEN, JR., *Secretary*.

## State Library Associations

### INDIANA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Because the A. L. A. will meet at Louisville next May, the bi-state meeting which was to have been held by the Kentucky and Indiana Library Associations will not take place this year. The Indiana Library Association will meet Oct. 22 and 23 at Richmond, Ind.

ELLA F. CORWIN,  
Secretary Indiana Library Association.

### NEW YORK LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

(From *New York Libraries*, July)

#### LIBRARY ROUND TABLE MEETINGS

The series of round table meetings planned by the Institute committee of the New York Library Association have been held. There were 27 meetings in May and two in June. A meeting of the Hudson Valley Library Club having been held at Poughkeepsie April 22, another gathering of librarians in the same neighborhood seemed superfluous and the number in attendance at the club meeting is reported with that for the round tables. The total attendance was 256 libraries and 585 persons. It is true that some persons attended more than one meeting, that a few libraries may be counted twice and also that two libraries in Pennsylvania and one from Ohio came across the border to swell our numbers. But after deducting all duplications, there were at least 240 different libraries of New York in these meetings.

The importance of this advance on the previous record is seen in the summary of attendance of seven years which follows the table for the 30 meetings of this year. It is a sign of growing interest that 12 libraries attended two meetings each within a month, and one even attended three meetings. Out of 30 meetings 22 were conducted by state instructors, inspectors and organizers. Important aid was given at four meetings by Mr. H. W. Fison, of the Williamsburg Branch of the Brooklyn Public Library, and at two meetings by Miss J. A. Rathbone, of Pratt Institute Library School.

The very informal character of these meetings has continued and the librarians are more and more coming to feel quite at home together. For some meetings careful preparation was made and papers presented. At others, and these were the majority, there was no preparation of papers or opening addresses, except such as the conductors in each case might make for themselves, the subjects of discussion being in all cases announced in advance. Some meetings were quite small. In one such case one man coming from an industrial farm, anxious to learn how to select and direct the reading of 75 boys under his care, contributed an element of profound interest to the round table and made it eminently worth while.

The following table shows the place, date, number of libraries represented, the number of persons in attendance and the name of the conductor for each meeting:

*New York library round table meetings 1908*

PLACE	DATE	LIBRARIES	PERSONS	CONDUCTOR
Albany.....	May 15	6	7	Miss C. Bacon
Troy.....	" 18	5	12	"
Glen Falls.....	" 22	3	12	A. Wynkoop
Plattsburg.....	" 29	9	15	"
Amsterdam.....	" 3	8	23	Miss C. Bacon
Utica.....	" 6	18	34	Miss A. R. Phelps
Canton.....	" 15	12	30	"
Syracuse.....	" 19	9	43	"
Auburn.....	" 22	8	12	"
Geneva.....	" 29	5	10	Miss Z. M. Brown
Canandaigua.....	" 26	4	10	Miss A. R. Phelps
Rochester.....	" 29	10	12	"
Buffalo.....	" 9	25	46	W. L. Brown
Oneonta.....	" 3	4	9	Miss Z. M. Brown
Binghamton.....	" 8	6	18	"
Cortland.....	" 9	8	17	"
Elmira.....	" 15	7	11	"
Hornell.....	" 19	11	29	"
Olean.....	" 22	7	12	"
Jamestown.....	" 26	13	31	"
Chatham.....	" 23	3	6	Miss C. Bacon
Griffin Corners.....	" 13	4	8	A. Wynkoop
Poughkeepsie.....	April 22	19	31	J. C. Sickley
Middletown.....	May 8	8	18	H. W. Fison
Nyack.....	" 26	7	16	W. R. Eastman
Mt. Vernon.....	" 15	13	25	H. W. Fison
Glen Cove.....	" 19	5	10	"
Rockville Center.....	" 23	4	9	"
Bridgehampton.....	June 5	4	30	Miss J. A. Rathbone
Riverhead.....	" 4	6	18	"
Total.....	30	256	585	

<sup>a</sup> Meeting of the Hudson Valley Library Club.

The following summary of statistics shows the development of the state institute or round table work since its inception in 1902:

<i>Library institute and round table meetings in New York, 1902-8</i>			
	Meetings.	Libraries.	Attendance.
			Persons.
1902.....	8	108	299
1903.....	8	108	317
1904.....	8	80	258
1905.....	8	93	341
1906.....	29	194	402
1907.....	29	213	467
1908.....	30	256	585

## Library Schools and Training Classes

### ALABAMA SUMMER LIBRARY COURSE

The five-weeks free summer course in library instruction which has been given at the Capitol under the Department of Archives and History was pronounced by all who have kept watch over the progress of its work a thorough success.

The course was opened July 15 in the Senate chamber in the State Capitol with 20 pupils and six instructors in attendance. At the opening were present Gov. B. B. Comer, Hon. Harry C. Gunnels, state superintendent of education, and Dr. Thomas M. Owen, di-

rector of the Department of Archives and History, as well as more than a score of other state officials and clerks.

The closing exercises found the entire class present with one exception. Miss Nimmo Greene, head instructor, and Miss Alice Wyman, instructor in reference work, as well as Dr. Thomas M. Owen, were present. Dr. Owen, under whose department the course has been conducted, made the final address to the class, in which he spoke of the dignity and importance of librarianship and of the professional opportunities in Alabama.

At the conclusion of his address, which was warmly applauded, at the suggestion of Miss Sophia Holmes a rising vote of thanks was extended Dr. Owen as director of the Department of Archives and History, for installing the course and for his cordial co-operation in supporting it.

Thanks were extended to the Carnegie Library and to Hon. J. M. Riggs, State and Supreme Court librarian for sympathetic and continuous co-operation.

The class has been singularly fortunate in having as instructors eight trained librarians. These consist of Misses Greene and Wyman, Miss Ora Ioneen Smith, librarian of the University; Miss Anne O. Shivers, librarian of the Alabama Polytechnic Institute; Miss Eva Wrigley, librarian, Talladega Public Library; Miss Susan Lancaster, librarian, State Normal School, Jacksonville; Miss Laura Martin Elmore, librarian, Public Library, Montgomery, and Miss Lucile Virden, of Montgomery.

About one-half the class will continue their studies at the Carnegie Library in this city for the next 30 days under the special instruction of Miss Jesse Hopkins.

Among the lecturers for the summer course have been: Hon. Thomas H. Clark, Junius M. Riggs, Hon. John H. Wallace, Jr., Hon. J. A. Wilkerson, Hon. H. C. Gunnels, Miss Sara Clark, Chief Justice John R. Tyson, of the Supreme Court, Hon. W. E. Fort, Major A. C. Sexton and Dr. Thomas M. Owen.

The lectures were largely devoted to the administration of the several departments of which these men are the head.

#### CHAUTAUQUA LIBRARY SCHOOL

The eighth annual session of the Chautauqua Library School opened July 4 and continued till Aug. 14, under the directorship of Melvil Dewey, with Mary E. Downey as resident director, assisted by Sabra W. Vought and Alice E. Sanborn.

Library Week, July 13 to 19, in the regular Chautauqua program, included the following lectures primarily interesting to the students: Librarianship as a profession for women, by Katherine L. Sharp; The choice of books, by President E. B. Bryan; Librarians abroad and at home, The library's place in modern life, and a library round table, by Melvil

Dewey; The school and the library, by Supt. W. H. Elson; The measure of a librarian by an old Greek rule, and The principles of book selection, by Mrs. H. L. Elmendorf; The library as a social memory, by President George E. Vincent.

Mrs. Elmendorf made two visits to the school, as did also Mr. Dewey, who lectured on Qualifications of a librarian, Efficiency, Methods, Time-savers, Buildings, and Classification. Other special lectures were as follows: Library associations, by Miss Sharp; Library organizing in California, by Bertha Kumli; Special features of the Dayton library, by Linda M. Clatworthy; Bead-making in Venice, by Horace Fletcher; The art of short story writing, by Mrs. Evelyn Sneed Barnett; Books on home economics, by Anna Barrows; Principles of reference work, by Mary Emogene Hazeltine.

Aside from the special lectures the course of study included 100 lectures in the following subjects: cataloging, classification, reference, library handwriting, note taking, order routine, accession, author numbers, shelf listing, alphabeting, bookbinding and mending, bibliography, government documents, loan systems, organization and administration, book selection and buying, buildings and equipment, work with children, schools and clubs, and library extension. Lectures were followed by practice work, which was carefully revised. Opportunity was given for questions and discussion of problems relating to library experience and for consultation with the instructors. The Chautauqua and Patterson libraries were used for reference and practical work.

Visits were made to the James Prendergast Library, Art Metal Construction Company, Buffalo Public Library and Niagara Falls Public Library.

So fine a spirit of faithfulness, enthusiasm and good fellowship prevailed that much was accomplished in the six weeks. Strenuous class work was supplemented by relaxation through the unsurpassed attractions which Chautauqua affords and by occasional social features.

The registration included 33 students, representing 17 states: Ohio, 8; Pennsylvania 4; Michigan, 3; Alabama, 2; Louisiana, 2; North Carolina, 2; Texas, 2, and 1 each from Arizona, Arkansas, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York and Virginia.

There were many visiting librarians, trustees and others interested in library work, who attended special lectures and consulted in regard to library matters, making this feature a very important part of the work.

MARY E. DOWNEY.

#### MICHIGAN SUMMER LIBRARY SCHOOL

The first session of the Michigan Summer School was held June 29-Aug. 7. There were

24 students enrolled from 16 different towns; 13 for the full course, 11 for special subjects.

The school was under the direction of Mrs. Mary C. Spencer, secretary of the state board of library commissioners. M. Louise Hunt, librarian of Lansing Public Library, gave the instruction in reference work. Ruth M. Wright, cataloger at the state library, was instructor in cataloging. Effie L. Power, instructor in library use and juvenile literature at the Cleveland Normal School, had charge of the children's work. M. Alice Matthews, assistant librarian of George Washington University Library, gave the classification and book selection. The school being held in the Capitol, the resources of the state library were at the command of both instructors and students.

Work with children was made a special feature of this session in order to meet the general need throughout the state for aid in this subject. The school was fortunate in having for this work a library of 500 volumes chosen by Miss Powers, for the Commission, as a first selection of children's books for a small public library. The students were thereby able to become familiar with the different editions by actual use of the books.

Special lectures were given by Alice B. Kroeger, director of Drexel Institute Library School, on the "Efficient librarian;" Samuel H. Ranck, librarian of Grand Rapids Public Library, on "Library administration;" Mrs. Mary C. Spencer, state librarian, on "State aid to libraries;" F. W. Chamberlain, of the Library Bureau, on "Library equipment."

One of the pleasant occasions during the session was the picnic given to the class by Mrs. Spencer. The students were also entertained informally by Mrs. J. E. Landon, librarian of the Michigan Agricultural College.

The unusually luxurious quarters in which the school was held occasioned comment from all visitors. The Senate chamber and two adjoining rooms were granted to the Commission for this purpose.

## Reviews

A CYCLOPAEDIC DICTIONARY OF MUSIC. [Curwen ed. 5620.] Comprising 14,000 musical terms and phrases, 6000 [brief] biographical notices of musicians and 500 articles on musical topics, with an appendix; containing an English-Italian vocabulary, a list of notable quotations, hints on Italian and German pronunciation, and useful charts and tables by Ralph Dunstan. London, J. Curwen & Son, Ltd. 7s. 6d.

The objects of this work are excellent, and it might have filled a long-felt want for a

popular work of the kind but for the following drawbacks: poor paper and typography; bad arrangement; many errors, for example, on p. 255, "Meistersinger. The chief musician of a German town or district in the Middle Ages;" on p. 225, "Koven, Henry L. R. de. Composer; b. Middletown (U. S.) 1859;" on p. 109, "De Koven, H. L. Reginald. American composer; b. Middletown, Conn., 1859." List of works follows. There are also no cross references between Koven and De Koven.

This book is in part a selection from other reference books, which fact is admitted in the preface, where the compiler gives a list of these works. This list, which, by the way, is very poor bibliography, contains the remarkable term, "German Wörterbuch."

E. M. J.

## Library Economy and History

### PERIODICALS

*Bibliophile*, July, contains "On the danger of hasty conclusions in bibliography" and "Booksellers' catalogues."

*Library Association Record*, July, contains "The registration of libraries," by L. Stanley Jast and W. C. Berwick Sayers, an article discussing the proposed establishment of an Institute as a registering body, and the effects of such an association upon the Library Association itself. The inadvisability of any such plan is warmly expressed in the article. "A successfully launched institute would injure, and more and more seriously injure as time went on the Library Association" is the basis for this argument against the projected institute. "The manufacture of wood pulp for paper-making," by R. W. Sindall, is of technical interest and completes the number.

The August number contains "Summer schools and provincial library assistants," by Basil Anderton; and "The Guildhall Library: its history and present position," by E. M. Borrajo.

*New York Libraries*, July, contains "The public library and the immigrant," by J. M. Campbell, which has awakened comment in the press upon Miss Campbell's excellent work. This article will be concluded in the October issue. "Children's reading," by Theresa Hitchler, is a brief study in analysis of the reading taste of children in the various phases of its development and is written with considerable spontaneity and understanding. "Work with schools in New Rochelle," by Jessie F. Brainerd, completes the number.

*Wisconsin Library Bulletin*, May-June, contains "As they see each other; the librarian from the author's point of view and the author from the library standpoint," two papers, the first by Mrs. Myrtle Reed Mc-



Cullough, and the second by Miss Lucy Lee Pleasants. Both of these papers were read at the Minnetonka conference; an account of "Wisconsin's part at the Minnetonka conference," by L. E. Stearns, also appears in this number.

*La Bibliofilia*, May-June, contains the continuation of Olschki's "Books unknown to bibliographers" and of Boffito's "Essay in Egidian bibliography."

*Bulletin des Bibliothèques Populaires*, July, contains "List of works admitted by the commission on elementary school libraries."

*Bulletin du Bibliophile*, June, contains "Summary description of works printed after 1500 in the Grenoble Library," by P. Berthet.

*Bollettino delle biblioteche popolari*, May, contains "Public libraries in German villages," by E. Schultze; "Public libraries and Italian ladies;" "On libraries in the country," by N. Turati; "The public library 'G. Mazzini' in Genoa," by C. Negretti.

#### AMERICAN LIBRARIES

*Braddock, Pa. Carnegie L.* (19th rpt., 1907.) Added 6746; total 50,125. Issued, home use 353,664.

The circulation of books in the schools is an important part in the work of the library, and there is now a collection of about 8000 books for this purpose. There are small school libraries placed in about 150 school rooms. The library has opened a news station in the Sunday-school room of a German Lutheran Church.

*Bradford, Pa. Carnegie P. L.* (8th rpt. — year ending Feb. 28, 1908.) Added 1500; total 13,477 (exclusive of U. S. government and state documents). Issued, home use 81,159 v. and 308 pictures. New registration 958; total 3238. Receipts \$7947.38; expenses \$5469.49 (salaries \$2422.85, furniture \$224.25, light and fuel \$361.25, periodicals \$172.10, binding \$265.41).

Several important changes were made during the year—the charging system was changed, a new registration was begun, the arrangement of the books was altered.

*Brooklyn (N. Y.) Institute of Arts and Sciences L.* (Rpt., 1907.) Added 152 bound v.; 457 unbound v.; total 16,618.

Inadequate quarters seriously hampered the work of the library and necessitated the moving of the library from its small room on the second floor to four rooms on the basement floor of the new East wing. These more commodious accommodations promise greater possibilities to the work of the library. By means of the reference collection, printed lists, displays of books on tables adjacent to the museum exhibits, and the publication of "Library notes" in the *Museum News* the usefulness of the museum has been furthered by the library.

"The natural science indexes, both card and book, in which this library is especially strong, have been kept up to date. These include the Concilium bibliographicum cards which now number 216,549; the Genera avium; Genera insectorum; the International catalogue of scientific literature; the Zoological record and the Zoologischer anzeiger. A new index has been added during the year, viz., an author card index to American botany from 1900 to date. These cards are issued by the Torrey Botanical Club and are invaluable for reference use in botany. Inquiry is sometimes made as to the use made of the Concilium bibliographicum cards. Our experience proves that the index is invaluable and we prove that the returns more than justify the time and expense involved."

The library's work has been rendered more effective through loans of books from other libraries.

*Concord (Mass.) F. P. L.* (Rpt. — year ending Jan. 31, 1908.) Added 1171; total 35,231. Issued, home use 33,216. Receipts \$3072.04; expenses \$3072.04.

By the completion of a new stack room enough space is given, it is estimated, for the growth of the library for the next 15 years.

*Concord (N. H.) P. L.* (Rpt. — year ending Dec. 31, 1907.) Added 900; total 29,078. Issued, home use 91,232.

"As there was no summer branch of the library this year, and as by its omission we lost about 5000 in circulation, our gain over 1906 was made by steady custom at the main building and by the returns from the five deposit stations.

*Dallas (Tex.) P. L.* (7th rpt. — year ending April 30, 1908.) Added 2728; total 21,532. Issued, home use 84,547 (non-fict. 25.2 per cent.). New registration 2234; active cardholders 7804.

The important feature of the year has been the establishment of an open-shelf room at a cost of \$1012 for the necessary equipment of steel stacks and furniture. "In this division of the reading room is to be found a collection of 6000 books, comprising almost all the fiction in the library and about 1700 other works carefully selected from all classes of literature and changed twice a year, to which the public has free and open access."

The accommodations of the library are inadequate, and extra space is needed to keep pace with the growth.

*Dover (N. H.) P. L.* (25th rpt., 1907.) Added 1445; total 35,270. Issued, home use 55,813 (52 per cent. adult fict.; juv. fict. 15 per cent.). Registration 461. Receipts \$5616.40; expenses \$5604.40 (books \$1091.61, magazines \$246.95, binding \$256.27, printing \$161.74, salaries \$2561.84).

"The reading room shows a somewhat less number of visitors than last year partly be-



cause the novelty of the building having worn off there are not so many casual visitors and partly because owing to the number of hours each day that the room is without a regular attendant the figures may not have been kept with entire accuracy."

The library will receive this year the interest of a special fund for the purchase of music, so that considerable development of this department is hoped for. A steady advance has been made in the children's room ever since its opening.

*Dubuque, Ia. Carnegie-Stout F. P. L.* (5th rpt., 1907.) Added 1068; total 23,008 (exclusive of about 11,000 govt. docs.). Issued, home use 100,982. New membership 1137; total 10,792. Receipts \$8521.69; expenses \$7350.93 (salaries \$3726.00, books \$625.24, binding \$599.68, printing and stationery \$153.25, periodicals \$258.65, fuel \$753.23, light \$602.70).

In the resignation of Miss Bessie S. Smith, who held the position of librarian for five years, the library suffered a loss, but the appointment of Miss Lilian B. Arnold as her successor assures the continuance of the excellent service heretofore given to the library. Miss Arnold's first report shows the library to be in excellent shape and the work of the year has been satisfactory. A men's reading room has been established; collections have been sent regularly to deposit stations in all the engine houses of the city. "At the men's rest room in the street car barns of the Union Electric Company 100 books and magazines have been made use of during the year. These books are circulated for home use, but no accurate statistics can be kept as much of the reading is done in the rooms by the men waiting between their runs." The school work has increased, and a story hour has been established.

*Fitchburg (Mass.) P. L.* (35th rpt. — year ending Nov. 30, 1907.) Added 1073; total 48,817. Issued, home use 76,047 (fict. 71 per cent.). Reference room use 5907; visitors to art gallery on Sundays 3233. Receipts \$8593.01; expenses \$8593.01 (salaries \$3652.06, books \$1763.05, periodicals \$280.97, binding \$434.90, printing \$153.15, stationery and catalog supplies \$165.01).

The resources of the library were increased by borrowing books from other libraries for students. A beginning has been made in circulating travelling libraries, with gratifying results.

*Fort Collins, Colo. Colorado Agricultural College L.* The 29th annual catalog of the Agricultural College notes the work of the library as follows:

The College Library was founded in 1878. The beginning of a book collection was made by donations from members of the college faculty, interested citizens of Fort Collins, and by funds from the college income.

Beginning about 1901, the library began to grow very rapidly, and in 1905 was moved from the small rooms in the main building to the building vacated by the commercial department, where, with additional shelving each year, it can be housed for a few years longer.

In addition to the main library there are several department libraries or depositories containing about 5000 volumes in all departments. With about 35,000 in the main library, the library contains about 40,000 volumes and about 50,000 unbound pieces. There is in the main library a collection of duplicates and "shorts" which is used for sales and exchanges, and this is particularly valuable for its agricultural documents and periodicals.

The D. C. (decimal classification) is used and an excellent dictionary catalog is well under way, carrying all purchases since 1901, all department libraries, all of fiction, all of biography and parts of several other classes. The sheep bound serial set of U. S. documents and the U. S. Department of Agriculture are also covered by printed cards in this catalog which, altogether, is practically a printed card catalog. The several serials and other items not noted here, but which are also in the catalog, would make a list too long for this purpose.

*Galesburg (Ill.) F. P. L.* (34th rpt. — year ending May 31, 1908.) Added 1881; total 35,056. Issued, home use 90,846 (fict. 47,576, juv. fict. 21,546); ref. use 37,657; issued through schools 8817. New registration 1069.

"A special effort was made in the fall to reach more of the laboring people of the city, and as a means to that end little circulars of information concerning the resources of the library and extending a cordial invitation to all to make use of them were sent out to about 1600 employees in the various factories and shops of the city, and the result has been increased patronage from that class of citizens."

*Hibbing (Minn.) P. L.* The new Carnegie library, costing \$25,000, was opened on Aug. 2.

*Hopedale, Mass. Bancroft Memorial L.* (22d rpt., 1907.) Added 448; total 11,763. Issued, home use 21,426 (72 per cent. fict.). Receipts \$2884.85; expenses \$2884.85 (periodicals \$138.70, binding \$94.02, salaries \$1114.58, lighting \$299.94, heating \$255.75, printing \$71.63).

Much time has been given during the year to overhauling the government documents; about 1000 are to be returned to Washington. Certain definite sets for which there seems some chance of use have been retained.

*Kenosha, Wis. Gilbert M. Simmons L.* (8th rpt. — year ending May 31, 1908.) Accessions 1760; total 19,295. Issued, home use 80,476 (fict. 41 per cent.). Receipts

\$27,414.16; expenses \$16,424.86 (books \$1640.25, binding \$371.02, salaries \$3631.65, furniture and fixtures \$1626.76, light and heat \$156.48).

The chief feature of the year has been the opening of a children's room, and "the joy manifested by the children in their beautiful new room promises well for future work among them." The library's school duplicate collection has had the largest circulation (8668) in its history. "A beginning has been made to do something for the large foreign population of Kenosha, and German and Italian have been purchased, a number of Swedish books are ordered and three small Polish travelling libraries from the Wisconsin Library Commission are now in steady circulation. An Italian magazine and a Swedish newspaper have also been added to our periodical list. Great practical assistance has been rendered by the Italian and Polish priests in creating an interest in this movement and the outlook for the coming year is good."

*Knoxville (Tenn.) Bar L.* The Knoxville Bar Library Association has opened a law library in rooms on the third floor of the Empire building, and the collection has been placed in charge of Miss Luttrell.

*Laconia (N. H.) P. L.* (5th rpt., 1907; in 15th rpt. of city officers, p. 86-98.) Added 857 (net gain); total 13,479. Issued, home use 35,719. New registration 467; total 3021. Receipts \$5605.66; expenses \$4120.38.

During the year there was an actual loss of 736 in the circulation of fiction, while the percentage of the total circulation fell off from 87.59 per cent to 84.43 per cent. The circulation of books classed under religion increased 172 per cent. Fairy tales gained 170 per cent., but this was partly because fairy tales were classed with sociology during four and a half months of 1906. Useful arts showed a still further gain of over 21 per cent., and lacked only two loans of equalling fairy tales. Amusements, including sports, hunting, and outdoor life, gained 55 per cent. Numerous statistics with regard to the circulation of the library are given in the report.

"An estimate on the cost of furnishing a room for the children in the basement has been obtained. Either the use of the reading room and the study room by children must be restricted or many adults will be kept away by the almost necessary disturbance until the children can be accommodated in the basement."

*Lawrence (Mass.) F. P. L.* (35th rpt., 1906.) Added 2474; total 58,095. Issued, home use 110,991. Registration 1204. Receipts \$17,609.17; expenses \$16,324.05 (books \$2773.60, salaries \$7710.81, lighting \$995.50, printing \$182.09, stationery \$101.24).

In the fall of the year the experiment was

tried of placing about 300 of the older works of fiction that had not circulated for some length of time on the open shelves in the delivery room, with the result that all but 14 of these books circulated and that the majority circulated frequently.

*Library of Congress, Washington, D. C.*, has many duplicate periodicals available for exchange with other libraries, and will be glad to receive lists of wants.

*Long Beach (L. I.) Carnegie P. L.* The cornerstone of the new Carnegie library was laid Sept. 5, with appropriate exercises.

*Madison, N. J. Drew Theological Seminary L.* (14th rpt.—year ending June 1, 1908.) Added 6135 (exclusive of 20,945 pm.); total 101,875 (exclusive of 114,898 pm.). Circulation 6660.

The most noteworthy gift of the year is the new shelving.

*Nashville, Tenn. Carnegie L.* (6th rpt., 1907.) Added 2241; total 35,162. Issued, home use 102,894. Total number of readers' cards 21,059; total number of borrowers' 12,228. Receipts \$11,021.75; expenses \$10,150 (salaries \$5500, printing and stationery \$231.36, lights \$42.50, fuel \$171.92, binding \$845.70, periodicals \$363.25).

The circulation of the juvenile department for the year was 12,887. "The greatest need of the library at present is a reference room, in which could be placed all of the general reference books, bound magazines, art books and special valuable collections. The library will not be able to properly meet the many demands upon it and serve the public to the best advantage until this reference room is opened." The suggestion of a special reference collection for high school children in connection with this new reference room is also made.

"One of the most important features of the library is the newspaper section, which contains files of Nashville daily newspapers from the year 1818 to the latest issues. These files are carefully guarded against mutilation, it being required that an assistant librarian shall always be present when the newspaper volumes are examined by any one."

*New York P. L.* An exhibition of Danish etchings has never been shown in this city, nor, perhaps, in any other American one. It is therefore a really unusual exhibit which has been arranged by the Print Department of the New York Public Library in the lower hall of the Lenox Library Building, and which consists of a small but eminently characteristic and on the whole very representative selection of Danish etchings drawn from the private collection of Dr. Axel Hellrung.

This little group of etchings illustrates an interesting form of a particular national expression in art.

*Pasadena (Cal.) P. L.* (Rpt.—year ending June 30, 1908.) Added 2657 (exclusive of unaccessioned documents, of which 462 were added); total 27,115. Issued, home use 159,409 (fict. 48 per cent.). New registration 2155 (1030 women, 535 men, 278 girls, 312 boys). Receipts \$13,716.46; expenses \$11,768.32 (books, magazines, maps \$2768.23, binding \$506.85, light \$376, salaries \$6121.30).

It is impossible to show the full use of the library by these statistics, as no account is kept of the number of readers in the periodical room or of the number of books consulted by the numerous students who frequent the reference room. The circulation exceeded that of last year by 14,186, though the classified proportion of circulation continues about the same. "Although the custom of disinfecting the library's books was established several years ago, it was found impossible last year on account of added work to subject the usual number of books to this process. About 1200 of the most used books were fumigated, always including any suspects." Reading in the library park is an interesting feature in the work, and books and magazines are loaned for a specified time for this purpose.

*Paterson (N. J.) F. P. L.* (23rd rpt.—year ending Jan. 31, 1908.) Added to main lib. 2275; total in main lib. and branch 33,428. Issued, home use 148,243 (from main lib. 133,577, from branch 14,666). Registration 2008. Receipts \$18,000; expenses \$21,119.29.

The report of the library, 1907-1908, is printed in attractive form, with several illustrations. The special feature of the year's work has been the establishment of a branch of the library at the corner of Main and Grand streets, known as the Grand Street Branch.

The branch was opened in October with about 1500 volumes, and has been thoroughly successful. The locations for two other branches have already been selected, and the librarian in his report urges their establishment. A duplicate pay collection of popular books was begun during the year with about 100 volumes, since increased to 251. It has shown such satisfactory results that its enlargement is desirable. In the children's room the age limit, which excluded all children under 12 years of age, has been discontinued. This action resulted in the registration of 3249 children during the year. New books in the children's room are much needed. The three new features of the work here mentioned were all suggested in the librarian's report for last year. The routine work of the library has been carried on energetically and with the most satisfactory results.

*Philadelphia F. L.* (12th rpt., 1907.) Total no. of vols. 321,643. Issued, home use 1,878,456. Number of readers 1,038,239.

At the date of this report seven of the 30

buildings proposed from Mr. Carnegie's gift had been opened; two were planned to open before the end of March, and a tenth before the end of June. Arrangements were made for an addition to the Free Library of the old Mechanics' Institute Library. A site for another branch library building has been given by Mrs. Anna Weightman Walker, upon which a suitable building will be located. Plans for this building have been submitted for approval. At the date of this report negotiations for the acquisition of two additional sites were already under way.

In the Department for the Blind the circulation of embossed books numbered 12,945, an increase of 3116 over the circulation of the previous year. The distribution according to types was as follows: American Braille 1707; Braille 367; Line letter 227; Moon 10,094; New York point 550. The total registration of readers in this department now numbers 1676, an increase of 555 over 1906. "The co-operation between the Pennsylvania Home Teaching Society for the Blind and the Free Library of Philadelphia continues to be most cordial, as are the relations with other organizations in Philadelphia interested in the blind."

The periodical room was used by 92,923 readers during 1907, an increase of 11,571 over 1906. There are 605 current magazines on file and 14,430 bound volumes of American and foreign periodicals. During the year 79 travelling libraries were in use in 36 fire stations, 7 police stations, 3 telegraph stations and 33 other places. The public documents department is gradually becoming an important feature of the library's work. The readers using this department numbered 6088 during the year. Brief reports on the work of each branch are given, showing satisfactory work.

*Quincy, Mass. Thomas Crane P. L.* (37th rpt., 1907.) Added 1331; total not given. Issued, home use 67,736; library use 4513. New registration 716. The library was not able to carry on its work under normal conditions, owing to the work on the new part of the building. By removing the entire collection to temporary stacks and the upper floor, the circulating department was able to continue its work, but under difficulties. The report of the year is therefore a record of excellent work. Much time has been spent on preparatory work for a new charging system.

*Rochester, N. Y. Reynolds L.* (23rd rpt.—year ending May 31, 1908.) Added 1921; total 75,000. Issued, home use 39,718. Cards issued 1591; total number of borrowers' cards 17,087.

The reading of fiction during the year increased 8 per cent. over 1905-6 and 2 per cent. over 1906-7.

*St. Francis, Wis.* The handsome new library which is being built by the Alumni As-

sociation of St. Francis Seminary on the seminary grounds is rapidly nearing completion.

The library will be known as the Salzmann Library, in honor of the founder of the institution. The building will be dedicated with simple ceremonies some time in September.

The building is of Roman Corinthian style of architecture. It is being built immediately south of the main hall. It is two stories in height, but an ingenious arrangement of the windows gives the casual observer an impression that it is but one story high. The structure will have cost over \$30,000 when completed.

*Seattle (Wash.) P. L.* (17th rpt., 1907.) Added 12,759; total 93,794. Issued, home use 454,735. New registration 19,229; total registration 29,118. Receipts \$87,037.98; expenses \$78,366.71, plus expenses for new building \$48,195.91.

The chief event of the year was the resignation of the librarian, Mr. Charles Wesley Smith, who held the position of librarian since 1895. "Mr. Smith's decision to leave library work and resume the practice of law was deeply regretted by his friends in Seattle and in the library world." The new central library building was formally opened to the public Dec. 19, 1906, so that this report covers the first year's work of the library in its new quarters. Two new reading rooms were opened in the main library, one of the branches was closed, and through an extension of the city limits the Carnegie library at Ballard was acquired. During the year 74,642 books were issued from the children's room at the main library; 45 rooms in 16 schools were visited during the year by the children's librarian. The library has also received 10 visits with a total of 485 children from the schools. The periodical department has had on file this year 673 periodicals and 136 newspapers, including duplicate copies. The average daily attendance of readers was 587 in the newspaper room and 478 in the periodical room. A total of 9345 periodicals were lent from the main library and the branches. During the year 417 circulating libraries containing 8505 books were sent to the Seattle schools.

The library needs to establish additional branches; a careful survey of the situation shows that at least 11 branches will be required to serve the scattered population of the city.

*Sedalia (Mo.) P. L.* (13th rpt. — year ending April 30, 1908.) Added 1529; total exclusive of uncataloged govt. docs 10,016. Issued, home use 46,376 (fict. 55 per cent.). New registration 660. Receipts \$7358.43; expenses \$5852.78 (salaries \$2072.49, printing \$98.70, insurance \$120, books and binding \$1900.63).

The chief event of the year was the resignation of Miss Faith E. Smith as librarian and the appointment of Miss Florence Whittier to this position. The work of the library during the year shows increase in usefulness and efficiency.

"The work done in manual training by the schools has been exhibited from time to time in the children's room." All the books on the list of 1053 children's books agreed upon by the Cleveland Public Library and the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh which were not already in the library or out of print have been purchased for the library.

*Sioux City (Ia.) P. L.* (Rpt., 1907.) Added 1599; total 23,512. Issued, home use 63,248. New registration 1315. Receipts \$7382.86; expenses \$5251.84 (books \$1000.51, periodicals \$224.85, binding \$342.80, salaries and labor \$3019.35).

There is a pressing need for a reference room. There is much juvenile reference work done, but as there is no separate children's room it is done in one corner of the general reading room and greatly handicaps the juvenile work.

*Somerville (Mass.) P. L.* (35th rpt., 1907.) Added 5390; total 79,162. Issued, home use 419,539 (fict. 295,421). Cards issued 3781.

The circulation in the children's room has been 71,563, of which 58,572 volumes have been fiction. During the year 364 vacation cards were issued; 1127 books were delivered to the homes of the people by delivery boys; 33 sets of stereographs are now owned by the library. The circulation of these sets during the year amounted to 678. "The work of the reference and art department has proceeded in the steady manner of previous years, and has frequently been enlivened by the exceedingly interesting and instructive art exhibitions. These pictures range from views of our own New England towns to views of the great historic centers of the world in both hemispheres. The library's collection of Americana has been added to from time to time and is a good representative collection.

*Taunton (Mass.) P. L.* (42d rpt. — year ending Nov. 30, 1907.) Added 2090; total 54,723. Issued, home use 64,812 (fict. less than 47 per cent.). New registration 687; total cards in use 7918.

A children's room is planned for and it is hoped that it may be furnished and equipped at the earliest possible date.

*Toledo (O.) P. L.* (33d rpt., 1907.) Added 8110; total 78,034. Issued, home use 375,931 (an increase over 1906 of 34 per cent.). New registration 3968; total cards in use 19,900 (nearly twice the number of four years ago).

The record of work accomplished shows remarkable progress during the year — in the registration of borrowers, the circulation of adult and juvenile books, in the demand from



teachers for school libraries, and in the reference work there has been unusual activity and growth. The work of the library is carried on also under unsatisfactory financial conditions, which emphasizes further the value of the work accomplished. Mr. Sewall's report is therefore of unusual interest and shows a progressive spirit and much energetic work. The present quarters of the library are inadequate and the need of an enlarged or new building is urged, and also other lines of improvement along which the library should work to come in closer touch with the needs of the community. The school work is noted as having been especially satisfactory. The requests from the kindergartens up through all the grades of the ward schools were greater than the library could supply. A collection of pictures for the children's room was begun when the room was opened, and has been added to by gifts, some purchases, and by pictures cut from magazines and mounted. These are loaned to teachers for their school work, to Sunday-school workers, and are used in the children's room.

*Trenton (N. J.) F. P. L.* (7th rpt.—year ending Feb. 28, 1908.) Added 4172 (+71 pm.); total 39,822 (+629 pm.). Issued, home use 219,140. New registration 2733; total (estimated) 20,040. Receipts \$29,944.32; expenses \$17,816.93 (books \$3674.09, salaries \$7747.17, binding and book repairs \$1048.70, light \$1042.85).

A total of 3652 books have been cataloged. In the reference department about 10,069 readers are reported with 8117 books temporarily called for and withdrawn for temporary use in the reference room. More space is needed for book-shelving in the library and for carrying on its work generally.

*University of Wisconsin.* The University of Wisconsin has issued under date of May, 1908, a small pamphlet "Library training courses." A joint course has been arranged between the University of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Library School by which the degree of bachelor of arts and at the same time the technical training given by the Wisconsin Library School can be obtained through four years of study.

*Waltham (Mass.) P. L.* (Rpt.—year ending Jan. 31, 1908.) Added 947; total (on Dec. 31, 1907) 32,337. Issued, home use 65,858 (fict. 82.7 per cent.). New registration 1069; active cardholders 9361.

Mrs. Mary E. Bill resigned her position as librarian and Harold T. Dougherty assumed the duties of librarian on Aug. 1. Considerable progress has been made in reclassifying and recataloging the library. The need of a separate children's room is much felt. The establishment of delivery stations is urged to meet the needs of those people living at a distance from the library.

*Waterbury, Ct. Silas Bronson L.* (38th rpt.—year ending Sept. 30, 1907.) Though indicated as above on the title, this report by a special vote of the library board covers a period of 15 months, from October, 1906, to December, 1907, inclusive.) Added 5436; total 75,100. Issued, home use 162,544 (fict. 71 per cent.). Receipts \$62,133.67; expenses \$59,657.99.

The circulation of foreign books was as follows: French, 1302; German, 739; Italian, 304; Swedish, 115; Yiddish, 725. The circulation from the school deposit libraries was 34,066. The reading room was open on Sunday afternoons from September to May, inclusive, with an average of 55 readers. About 2000 books and 99 magazines are in this room, and are freely used without being recorded. Volumes called for on reading room slips numbered 834.

*Williamsport, Pa. James V. Brown L.* (1st rpt.—Sept. 1, 1906-June 30, 1908.) Added 2835; total 11,031. Issued, home use 154,398. Readers' cards issued 7891. Receipts \$12,850; expenses \$12,751.98.

This report is of especial interest as being the first. The library was opened on June 17, 1907, and the use that has been made of it during the first year would seem above normal, so that a decrease in the circulation for next year should be expected. Lectures have been given and exhibitions held in the library during the year. "By special authority of the Board, the librarian purchased from the heirs of the late John F. Meginness his entire library, consisting of books, pamphlets and clippings. About 500 of the books so secured were set aside to form the nucleus of a collection of Pennsylvania and nearly 500 volumes have been added to date. The Free Library of Philadelphia and the State Library assisted generously with contributions of state documents, so that many of the more important sets are now complete, while future issues of state publications will be received as issued, through the state library." Memorial resolutions in honor of the late Orange Sabin Brown, president of the board from 1904-1908, are appended to the report.

*Wilmington (Del.) Institute F. L.* (14th rpt.—year ending Feb. 29, 1908.) Added 4761; total 62,505. Issue, home use 252,397 (an increase of 27,457 over the previous year). New registration 4651; total registration 14,117.

"Although no radical changes have been made either in the policy or in the equipment of the library, it is gratifying to note that the statistics show a largely increased use of the library by the citizens of Wilmington." A deposit station has been opened on the outskirts of the city at the Woodlawn Club and has had enthusiastic patronage. The circulation for the present year is not only the largest in the history of the library, but it



shows a greater increase than any previous year." The juvenile circulation increased 7133 over last year, in spite of the fact that owing to conditions of the children's room none of the modern methods used by libraries to attract children can be adopted. These conditions are most unsatisfactory and the children's room should be placed on the street level. The circulation from the school libraries shows an increase of 4275 over last year. For the first time books were sent to one of the Roman Catholic parochial schools as well as to the public schools. "A special effort has been made to place in the hands of the teachers information concerning the library and the books on education that are added from time to time. Whenever a list of books on education has been published in the bulletin, copies of this bulletin have been sent to all the teachers and a number of special lists of educational books have been sent to them." A special effort is made by the library to bring books on applied science and technical literature to the attention of those interested in these subjects, and this year a larger number of books of this class were purchased by the library than ever before. "The report for last year contained the first account of the work that the library has done with the blind. During the year, at the suggestion of Mr. C. Reginald Van Trump, the city appropriated for the library \$250 to be used especially for the work with the blind. The circulation among the blind for the year was 340, an increase of 198 over the year before. The appropriation from the city enabled us to buy a number of books in Moon and Braille, and we are no longer dependent on other libraries for books."

## FOREIGN

*Battersea (Eng.) P. Ls.* (21st rpt.—year ending March 31, 1908.) Added 1411; total 55,937, of which 17,374 are in the reference department; 21,269 in the lending department of the central library. Issued, home and ref. use 427,360. Number of borrowers 13,644.

"The work of the libraries has proceeded steadily and satisfactorily during the year."

*Brighton, Eng. County Borough of Brighton P. L. Museums and Art Galleries.* (2d rpt.—year ending Nov. 16, 1907.) Added 1043 to lending library, 1115 to reference dept. Issued from lending lib. 259,596; ref. use averages 281 per day. Tickets were issued to 3228 new borrowers. The total number of new tickets issued during the year was 3922.

"Statements have appeared in print that a considerable number of volumes are missing year by year from the open access department of the lending library, and also that serious mutilations occur from time to time. This opportunity is taken to say that these statements are incorrect. It is true that,

when stock was taken after the removal of the books in the lending library to the new building, a number of works were found to be missing, but since then the number each year has been extremely small, and there is no single trace of any case of mutilation having taken place in a lending library book."

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**Gifts and Bequests**


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*Chelsea, Mass.* It is stated that Mr. Carnegie has offered Chelsea, Mass., a \$50,000 library building to replace the one lost in the recent fire. The gift is on condition that the city provides \$5000 a year for maintenance and uses the \$20,000 insurance received for the purchase of books. The city already owns the site.

*Dubuque, Ia. Carnegie-Stout F. P. L.* By the will of the late William B. Allison the sum of \$1000 has been left to the library.

*Lunenburg, Mass.* At a special town meeting held for the purpose of considering the gift of Miss Catherine Watson, of Boston, to erect a public library, at a cost of \$10,000, the offer was accepted. Her only provisions were that the library building be erected upon the old tavern lot, and be known as the Ritter Memorial Library, in honor of her mother.

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**Librarians**


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COROTHERS, Miss Wilhelmina E., has resigned her position in the Catalog Division of the Library of Congress to become instructor in classification and cataloging in the Indiana Library School at Indianapolis.

DOWNNEY, Mary Elizabeth, librarian of the Ottumwa (Iowa) Public Library, has been appointed library organizer of Ohio.

DURLIN, Miss Maude, has resigned her position of librarian of the Oshkosh (Wis.) Public Library to accept the position of librarian of the El Paso (Tex.) Public Library.

GREEN, Charles Robert, has resigned his position as assistant librarian of the Connecticut State Library to accept the position of librarian of the Massachusetts Agricultural College at Amherst, Mass.

GRIFFIN, Appleton Prentiss Clark, has been appointed by the Librarian of Congress to the position of chief assistant librarian, made vacant by the death of Dr. Ainsworth R. Spofford. Mr. Griffin has been connected with the library profession for nearly forty years and has served as a member of the staff of the Library of Congress for eleven years. Since 1900 he has held the important position of chief bibliographer, in charge of the more elaborate research undertaken by the Library of Congress, and the compilation of lists of references which the

library issues upon current public questions, in particular those questions receiving the attention of Congress. His previous notable service had been in the Boston Public and the Lenox libraries. Mr. Griffin is one of the foremost bibliographers in this country. He is widely known as the author of a number of important bibliographic works. Aside from those published by the Library of Congress may be mentioned his "Catalogue of the Washington collection in the Boston Athenæum," 1897, and his "Bibliography of American historical societies," 1907 [1000 pages].

SILVERTHORN, Miss Bessie Babbitt, formerly of the Public Library of the District of Columbia, has been appointed librarian of the Carnegie Library of Norwich University, the military college of the state of Vermont, Northfield.

SPOFFORD, Ainsworth Rand, chief assistant librarian of the Library of Congress, died on August 12 at the age of 83, at Shephard Hill, N. H. Mr. Spofford was born at Gilmartin, N. H., in 1825. He received an excellent classical education under private tutors, and developed early the passion for reading which was to shape the course of his future career. In 1844 he went to Cincinnati, Ohio, where he became a bookseller and publisher, and he was one of the founders of the Literary Club of Cincinnati in 1850. Nine years later he became an assistant editor of the Cincinnati *Daily Commercial*. Mr. Spofford's life in Washington dated from 1861, when he was appointed first assistant in the Library of Congress. He was made librarian-in-chief in 1864, which position he held until 1897. In view of Mr. Spofford's advanced years and the added responsibilities of the position, Mr. Herbert Putnam was appointed to the position of librarian and Mr. Spofford retired to the position of chief assistant, which he occupied up to the time of his death. Reminiscent notes of Mr. Spofford, giving some idea of his rare faithfulness, devotion and remarkable knowledge appear elsewhere in this issue.

### Cataloging and Classification

BOURNEMOUTH (Eng.) PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

List of recent additions. No. 8. 20 p.

Part 1, Bibliography, literary history and criticism and language; part 2, Poetry and drama; part 3, Books in foreign languages.

CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY. Accessions to the Chicago Public Library from June 1 to Sept. 1, 1908. (Bulletin no. 86.) 16 p. O.

KANSAS CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY QUARTERLY, July, 1908.

Children's catalogue-supplement to Children's catalogue published July, 1905. p. 79-109.

NEW YORK STATE LIBRARY. Bibliography, 44:

A selection from the best books of 1907, with notes. Albany, 1908. 55 p. O. (Education Department, Bulletin no. 430.)

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM. Class list of best books and annual of bibliography, 1907-1908; third annual issue. London, 1908. Published for the Library Association by Libraco. 101 p. O.

Some foreign works are included and a limited amount of annotation. The classification is that of the Institut International de Bibliographie, with some modifications in the classes of Philosophy, Literature and History where the original Dewey classification has been followed wholly or in part.

SUPERINTENDENT OF DOCUMENTS. Advanced sheets of third edition of Checklist of United States public documents. Class C, Commerce and Labor Department: C1, Secretary; C2, Alaskan Fisheries Division; C3, Census Bureau; C4, Coast and geodetic survey; C5, Corporation Bureau.

WOOLTON (Eng.) COUNCIL FREE LIBRARY. Index catalogue of the fiction and general literature forming the Public Lending Library at Woolton; comp. by William Jaggard. Liverpool, Shakespeare Press. 87 p. O.

### Bibliography

AMERICAN HISTORY. Virginia State Library. Bulletin, v. 1, no. 3, July, 1908.

The titles are arranged alphabetically by authors under a few leading subject headings. In the index at the end of the Finding list the names of all authors and the subject words of all titles have been arranged in one alphabet.

BOTANICAL LITERATURE. Smithsonian Institution United States National Museum. Catalogue of the botanical library of John Donnell Smith, presented in 1905 to the Smithsonian Institution; comp. by Alice Cary Atwood. Washington, Gov't. Printing Office, 1908. 94 p. O. (Contributions from the United States National Herbarium, v. 12, pt. 1.)

The library, which was presented by Captain Smith, of Maryland, together with his herbarium of 100,000 mounted specimens, contains some 1600 bound volumes, consisting chiefly of works relative to systematic botany, and being especially rich in works relating to Mexico and Central America. The books, which are all handsomely bound, will remain for the present in Baltimore, but are

placed at the disposal of botanists, to whom the present pamphlet, which is an author catalog of the library, should prove of interest and practical value.

**CHECKERS.** Call, W. Timothy. The literature of checkers; embracing all the books, pamphlets, and magazines on the game of English draughts, commonly known as checkers. [Hawthorne, N. J., C. M. Potterdon,] 1908. c. no paging, D. cl., \$1.

A bibliography of the game of checkers, beginning with the first book on the subject in English, "An introduction to the game of draughts," by William Payne, London, 1756.

**CORRUPTION (IN POLITICS).** Library of Congress. Select list of references on corrupt practices in elections; comp. under the direction of A. P. C. Griffin. Washington, Gov't Printing Office, 1908. 12 p. O.

**CRICKET (INSECT).** Lutz, Frank E. The variation and correlations of certain taxonomic characters of *Gryllus*. Wash., D. C., Carnegie Institution of Washington, 1908. 3-63 p. tabs., figs. O. (Carnegie Institution of Washington publication.) pap., 40 c. Bibliography (1 p.).

**DE PEYSTER,** John Watts. Allaben, Frank. John Watts de Peyster. New York, Frank Allaben Genealogical Company, [1908.] 2 volumes.

Volume 2 of this work, pages 269-320, contains a chronological bibliography of the published writings of General de Peyster beginning with 1834 and concluding with 1904.

**ICELANDIC LITERATURE.** Islandica: an annual relating to Iceland and the Fiske Icelandic collection in Cornell University library; ed. by G. W. Harris. v. 1, Bibliography of the Icelandic sagas and minor tales, by Halldor Hermannsson. Ithaca, N. Y., Cornell University, 1908. c. 126 p. O. pap., \$1.

**INDUCTION COILS.** Armagnat, H. The theory, design and construction of induction coils; tr. and ed. by Otis Allen Kenyon. N. Y., McGraw Publishing Co., 1908. c. 5+216 p. figs. O. cl., \*\$2 net. Bibliography (22 p.).

**INSURANCE.** Library of Congress. Select list of references on workingmen's insurance; comp. under the direction of A. P. C. Griffin. Washington, Gov't Printing Office, 1908. 28 p. O.

[Contents:] General; United States; Great Britain; Germany; France; Belgium.

**JAPAN.** Wenckstern, F. von. Bibliography of the Japanese empire, comprising the literature in European languages from 1894-1906; with additions and corrections to the first volume and a supplement to Léon Page's "Bibliographie Japonaise." London, 1908. 535 p. 8°.

Added to this is a list of the Swedish literature on Japan by Miss Valfrid Palmgren. With regard to this work the publisher issues the following statement: Herr Wenckstern requests me to announce that the Emperor of Japan has been pleased to confer upon him the Order of the Rising Sun, 14th Class, for his Japanese bibliography. I am also requested to state that this volume, issued six months ago, embraces only the literature issued from 1894-1906, and is *not* a new enlarged edition of that issued in 1895.

**MIDDLE AGES.** Chevalier, U. Répertoire des sources historiques du moyen age: bibliographie. Ed. rev. and enl. Paris, Picard, 1907. Q.

**MOLIERÈ.** Currier, T. F., and Gay, E. L. Catalogue of the Molière collection in Harvard University library. Cambridge, Harvard University, 1906. In-8. 148 p. 3 fr., 80 c.

**PHILOSOPHY.** List of books in the New York Public Library relating to philosophy. 2 pts. (In New York Public Library Bulletin, July, p. 407-447; August, 464-516.)

**RABIES.** Hart, G. H. Rabies and its increasing prevalence. Wash., D. C., [U. S. Office of the Superintendent of Documents,] 1908. 26 p. 8°, (U. S., Dept. of Agriculture, Bureau of Animal Industry, circular.) pap., 15 c. Bibliography (1 p.).

**SCANDINAVIAN STUDIES.** Flom, G. Tobias. A history of Scandinavian studies in American universities, together with a bibliography. Iowa City, Ia., State University of Iowa, 1907, [1908.] 66 p. 8°, (Iowa studies in language and literature.) pap., 50 c.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL LITERATURE.** Trull, G. Harvey. A manual of missionary methods for Sunday-school workers; introd. by C. Galaudet Trumbull. Phil., Sunday School Times Co., [1908.] c. 12+245 p. il. D. ("Times" handbooks for missionary workers.) bds., \*50 c. net.

List of graded books for Sunday school libraries. (22 p.)

**TECHNICAL LITERATURE.** James V. Brown Library, Williamsport, Pa. Selected list of books on technology. 1908. 11 p. O.

A classified guide to technical literature.

**TEXT-BOOKS AND EDUCATIONAL LITERATURE.** Publishers' Weekly. Educational number, July 25, 1908.

This bound number of the *Publishers' Weekly* includes all textbooks used in American schools and academic institutions (not in universities, professional or technical schools), and books prepared especially for supplementary reading in primary and grammar schools.

**WALES.** Cardiff (Wales) Public Library.

Bibliography of Wales: a record of books in Welsh or relating to Wales. no. 25, July, 1908. 12 p. O.

This list contains, as far as can be ascertained, all publications since October, 1907. All the items included have been added to the Welsh Department of the Cardiff Reference Library. The preceding numbers of this list have been published, nos. 1-14, in the *Cardiff Public Library Journal*, from April, 1900, to June, 1903, and nos. 15-19 were issued as a supplement to that journal, no. 20 being the first to appear as a separate publication.

### Notes and Queries

**IN RE INDEX.**—Much attention has been given to the proper construction of an index, and there is a general notion of what one should be. The *Journal of American History* has just given us an example of what an index should *not* be. It calls it a syllabus. There is in it an appearance of fulness and alphabeticity, but there are three pages, out of 11, of entries under AN, THE and IS. Neither the subjects treated under these headings nor their authors have their proper alphabetical places.

The volume contains articles by President Roosevelt and other well-known writers, and on such subjects as Panama canal, Paper money and Universal peace. None of them are given their proper place in the syllabus, but are hidden away under AN, FIRST, FOUR, THE and TO.

JOHN EDMANDS.

#### FURTHER WARNINGS TO LIBRARIANS

*Editor of the Library Journal.*

DEAR SIR: Your warning in the July LIBRARY JOURNAL concerning a man named Perry reminds me of the \$5 which I paid for the autograph of an individual giving that name. Some inquiry inclines me to believe that two Perrys have operated in Louisville:

(1) P. A. Perry, who was for a time connected with the subscription department of Houghton, Mifflin & Co. He has been described as "a stout, full-faced, clean shaven

man of 44 or 45 years of age," and claimed to be a relative of Bliss Perry. His operations extend from the Atlantic to the Mississippi, or further. He made arrangements to publish a finely illustrated edition of the works of a local author and secured considerable money from him under this pretense. A doctor of this city was beaten out of about \$7000 by the same man.

(2) A. J. Perry, rather tall, about 50 years of age, and has a hesitating manner or speech. He called on me Oct. 8, 1907, and after spoiling considerable time mentioned that he and his mother were bound for Buffalo and he was a little embarrassed for a small amount. I gave him \$5, and on request he signed his name A. J. Perry, No. 4 Park street, Boston. In a conversation with our reference librarian, she stated that the only objection she had to Bliss Perry was his treatment of Walt Whitman. "I told Uncle Bliss that he was not suited for that work," replied the smooth stranger. He also called on a Louisville author and volunteered the information that he had a beautiful picture of Uncle Bliss Perry. The editor of the *Atlantic Monthly* declares he has no nephew of that age, name or reputation. Fortunately my last Perry autograph has not cost me as much as the first.

Moral to librarians: Don't pay too much for your autographs.

Yours very truly,

WM. F. YUST.

LOUISVILLE (Ky.) FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY,  
Aug. 12, 1908.

**COMPLETED EDITIONS.** The library of Colby College, Waterville, Me., has received the remainder of the edition of "Personal recollections," by Joseph Ricker, D.D., which describes the author's experiences in Maine, and contains biographies of 22 prominent Baptists of that state. A copy will be sent to any library on receipt of 12 cents for mailing, by Dr. E. W. Hall, Librarian, Waterville, Me.

**SUBSCRIPTION BOOKS.**—The "Biographical dictionary of America," published by the Biographical Society, 1904, and now being sold in New England, is the old "Lamb's Biographical dictionary," 1900, made into 10 volumes instead of six. It sells for \$60, and Lamb I have seen quoted for \$10. The agent showed me orders from some libraries for this book.

W. P. CUTTER.

### Library Calendar

#### SEPTEMBER

21-28. N. Y. L. A. annual meeting. Lake George, Hotel Sagamore.

#### OCTOBER

20-21. Nebraska L. A. annual meeting. Hastings.

22-23. Indiana L. A. Richmond.

The program for the meeting is given on p. 365.



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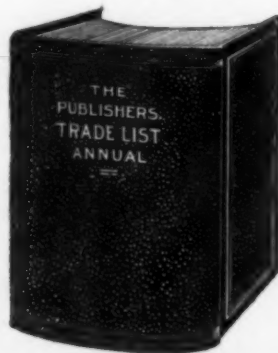
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